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THE

MEDFORD HISTORICAL REGISTER

VOL. XXIII, 1920

PUBLISHED BY THE
MEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEDFORD, MASS.

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MEDFORD

J. C. MILLER, JR., PRINTER

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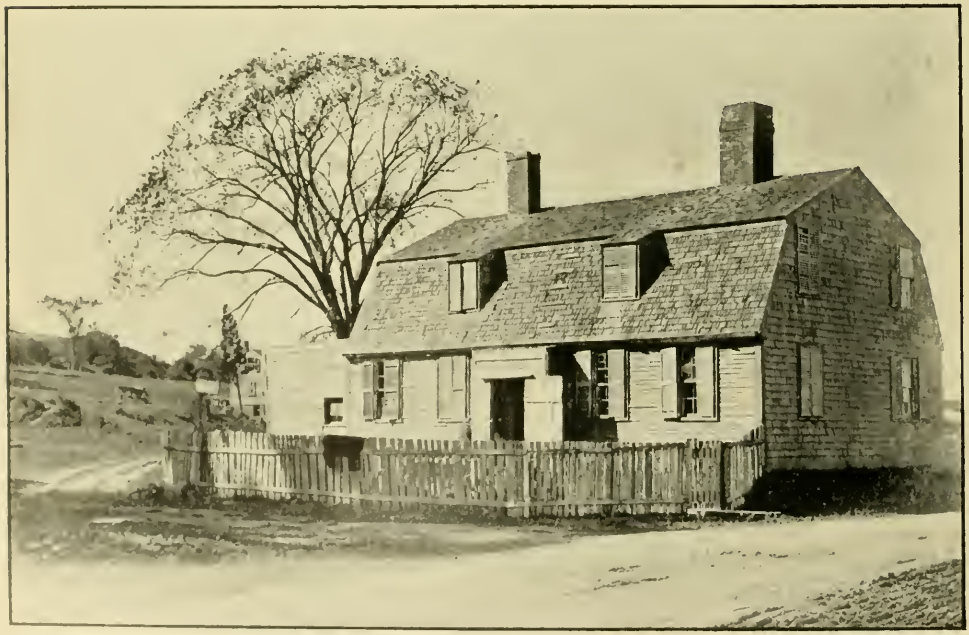
FORM OF BEQUEST.

I give and bequeath to the Medford Historical Society, in the city of Medford, Mass., the sum of _____ Dollars for the general use and purposes of said Society.

(Signed) _____

J. C. MILLER, JR., PRINTER, MEDFORD.

TOLL-HOUSE ON ANDOVER TURNPIKE.
(The house on Medford Turnpike was probably a counterpart of this.)



HOUSE OF GERSHOM CUTTER, Proprietor of Mill on Turnpike.

The Medford Historical Register.

Vol. XXIII. MARCH, 1920. No. 1.

MEDFORD TURNPIKE CORPORATION.

ON March 2, 1803, the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, upon the petition of Benjamin Hall, John Brooks, Fitch Hall, Ebenezer Hall, 2d, and Samuel Buel, granted to these petitioners, and all other persons as are or shall be associated with them and their successors, the right to lay out and make a turnpike road from the easterly side of the road nearly opposite to Dr. Luther Stearns' house, and running easterly of Winter hill and Plowed hill* to the east side of the road opposite Page's tavern near the neck in Charlestown. Dr. Luther Stearns' house stood in part on the location of Emerson street in Medford, and Page's tavern stood in or near Sullivan square, in the Charlestown district of Boston. The act of incorporation provided, that if the said corporation shall neglect to complete the said turnpike road for the space of three years from the passage of this act, the same shall be void. It was also provided, that if the said road should be laid out across any grounds, the privileges of which have been heretofore granted by law to the proprietors of the Middlesex canal for the purpose of cutting a canal, the proprietors of the turnpike road shall be obliged to make any extra bridge or bridges across said canal, or extra sluices that shall be rendered necessary by the formation of the said turnpike road, and to keep the same in repair. It was further provided, that the corporation might make and establish rules and regulations as might be necessary to regulate the affairs of the corporation, and for a breach thereof might order and enjoin fines not exceeding $13.33. Also, that said turnpike road shall be laid out not less than three rods in width on the upland, six rods in width on

*Mt. Benedict or Convent hill.

the marsh, and the part to be traveled be not less than twenty-four feet in width in any place, and when the said road shall be sufficiently made and approved by a committee of the Court of General Sessions of the Peace for the County of Middlesex to be appointed for that purpose, then the said turnpike corporation shall be and hereby is authorized to erect a turnpike gate or gates in some convenient place or places on said turnpike road, for collecting such toll as shall be determined by the said corporation and approved by the aforesaid committee.

The act provided that the corporation shall be entitled to receive from each traveler or passenger the following rate of toll, to wit: For every coach, chariot, phaeton or other four-wheeled carriage for the conveyance of persons, drawn by not more than two horses, ten cents, and if drawn by more than two horses an additional sum of two cents for each horse; for every cart, wagon, sleigh or sled or other carriage of burden, drawn by not more than three cattle, six cents, if by more than three, an additional sum of two cents for every additional ox or horse; for every carriole, eight cents; for every cart drawn by one horse, four cents; for every sleigh for the conveyance of persons drawn by two horses, six cents, and if drawn by more than two horses an additional sum of two cents for each horse; for every sled or sleigh drawn by one horse, four cents; for every chaise, chair or other wheeled carriage drawn by one horse, six cents; for every man and horse, two cents; for all oxen, horses, neat-cattle, led or driven, besides those in carriages and teams, five mills; for all sheep and swine, two cents by the dozen, and in the same proportion for a greater or less number. Provided that nothing in this act shall authorize said corporation to demand toll of any person who shall be passing with their horse and carriage to or from his usual place of public worship, or with his horses, team or cattle to or from the common labors of his farm, and when no toll-gatherer shall be present at said gate to receive the toll, the said gate shall be left open and

travelers be permitted to pass freely. And the corporation shall, at the place where the toll is collected, erect and keep constantly exposed to view, a sign or board with the rates of toll of all tollable articles, fairly and legibly written thereon. And if the said corporation or their toll-gatherer, or others by them employed, shall unreasonably delay or hinder any passenger or traveler at the gate, or shall demand or receive more toll than by this act established, the corporation shall forfeit and pay a sum, not exceeding $10.00 or less than $2.00, to be recovered before any justice of the peace for the county of Middlesex.

The first meeting of the proprietors of the Medford Turnpike Corporation was held on the eleventh day of April, 1803, at the house of Hezekiah Blanchard, Jr. Benjamin Hall was chosen moderator and Luther Stearns clerk.

May 5, 1803. Voted that General Brooks, Luther Stearns and Capt. Andrew Hall be a committee to draw up a subscription, and that the number of shares shall be 100.

The following is a list of the proprietors of the Medford turnpike road, with the number of shares which they hold annexed to their names: —

Benjamin Hall	10	shares,	Nos.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10.
John Brooks	3	,,	,,	11, 12, 13.
Samuel Buel	6	,,	,,	14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 70.
Nathaniel Hall	3	,,	,,	21, 22, 23.
Ephraim Hall	1	,,	,,	24.
Andrew Hall	4	,,	,,	25, 26, 27, 28.
Luther Stearns	4	,,	,,	29, 30, 31, 32.
Oliver Hartshorn	5	,,	,,	34, 35, 36, 37, 38.
Fitch Hall	5	,,	,,	39, 40, 41, 42, 43.
Joseph P. Hall	3	,,	,,	59, 60, 61.
Timothy Dexter	1	,,	,,	64.
Benjamin Hall Jr & son	5	,,	,,	65, 66, 67, 68, 69.
Peter C. Brooks	7	,,	,,	19, 20, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81.
Josiah Bradlee	2	,,	,,	82, 83.
William V. Hutchins	5	,,	,,	33, 74, 84, 85, 86.

Samuel Gray	4	shares,	Nos.	87, 88, 89, 90.
Dudley Hall	1	,,	,,	75.
Richard Hall	1	,,	,,	76.
John C. Jones	5	,,	,,	44, 45, 46, 47, 48.
Richard D. Tucker	3	,,	,,	71, 72, 73.
Ebenezer Hall Jr	2	,,	,,	62, 63.
Elijah & Samuel Davenport	10	,,	,,	91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.
Rufus Davenport	10	,,	,,	49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58.

At the meeting held May 5, 1803, Nathaniel Hall was appointed an agent to petition the Court of General Sessions to appoint a committee to lay out and appraise the lands taken for the Medford turnpike road. At a meeting held June 18, 1803, it was voted that the officers of the corporation shall consist of a president, a standing committee of five to lay out and superintend the making of the turnpike road, and a treasurer. June 29, 1803, Benjamin Hall was chosen president, Nathaniel Hall, Andrew Hall, Luther Stearns, Joseph P. Hall and Samuel Buel were chosen standing committee, and Samuel Buel was chosen treasurer. (Luther Stearns had been chosen clerk at a prior meeting.) At a meeting of the standing committee on August 22, 1803, it was voted to adopt, as a seal of the corporation, the letters M. T. inclosed in a heart as a field. September 12, 1803, the committee appointed by the Court of General Sessions of the Peace to lay out the Medford turnpike road, or such part thereof, as with the consent of the proprietors of said turnpike they might think proper, made return of the warrant to them directed, as follows: —

Beginning at a stake and stones on the easterly side of the road, and by land of the heirs of Col. Isaac Royall, deceased, nearly opposite to Dr. Luther Stearns' house in Medford, and running southeasterly over land of said heirs, one hundred and thirty-seven rods and three-quarters of a rod, and here the road is laid out four rods wide; and thence the same course two hundred and forty-one rods and sixteen links to land of the heirs of Thomas

Russell, late of Boston, deceased, and here the road is laid six rods wide; thence the same course over the land of the heirs of said Russell ten rods and fourteen links to a stake by land of Elias Haskett Derby, and here the road is laid out six rods wide; thence over land of said Derby, thirty-eight rods and six links to a heap of stones at the point of the rocks, by or near the Middlesex canal,* and here the road is laid out three rods wide; thence the road is laid out twenty rods to a stake in the rail fence, and here the road is laid out three rods wide; and thence southeasterly fifty-four rods, and here the road is laid out six rods wide; and thence the same course, fifty-two rods and six links, and here the road is laid out four rods wide; and thence the same course seventy-one rods and six links to land of John Tufts, and here the road is laid out six rods wide; and thence the same course over the land of said Tufts, and partly over the land of the heirs of Timothy Tufts, Jr., forty-seven rods and eight links to land of William Stearns, and here the road is laid out six rods wide; and thence over land of said Stearns and partly over land of Benjamin Frothingham, Jr., forty-four rods, and here the road is laid out six rods wide; and thence the same course forty-six rods to land of Samuel Swan, and here the road is laid out four rods wide; thence the same course over said Swan's land seven rods to land of Andrew Kettle, and here the road is laid out four rods wide; thence the same course over said Kettle's land ten rods to land of William Smith, and here the road is laid out four rods wide; thence the same course over said Smith's land twenty-seven rods eight links to a stake and stones by the east side of the road opposite Page's tavern near the neck in Charlestown, and here the road is laid out four rods wide. And all the fore-described lines, butts and bounds are in the middle of the said turnpike road, except where said road comes to northeasterly side of the bank of the Middlesex canal,† and there the said side of the bank is the bound of the

* See sketch made by Caleb Swan, REGISTER, Vol. XIV, p. 68, also Vol. XIII, p. 97.

† REGISTER, Vol. XIII, p. 97

southeasterly side of said turnpike road. . . . And we estimate the damages that any man may sustain, or which or shall arise to any person by taking his land for said road as follows, viz.:

To the heirs of Isaac Royall, late of Medford, deceased, $2,390.00; the heirs of Thomas Russell, late of Boston, deceased, $65.50; Elias Haskett Derby, $2,362.00; John Tufts, $550.00; the heirs of Timothy Tufts, Jr., late of Charlestown, deceased, $1.00; Dr. William Stearns, $910.00; Benjamin Frothingham, Jr., $62.50; Samuel Swan, $105.00; Andrew Kettle, $150.00; William Smith, $635.00; making a total of $7,231.00.

January 26, 1804, a committee was chosen to consider the expediency of building a hotel. At a subsequent meeting the committee reported that it was inexpedient to build at present, but recommended that a committee be appointed and authorized to purchase a piece of land immediately for the building of a hotel at some future day. Still later another committee was appointed to enquire into the expenses and report a plan for a hotel. No action by the corporation concerning the building of a hotel was taken after the appointment of this committee, as the building of the Medford house commencing about this time obviated the necessity of any further action.* February 13, 1804, the standing committee was directed to purchase a piece of land on or near the farm of General Derby and build a house suitable for a toll-man. The committee contracted with Buckman and Wait, carpenters, to build the house at a cost of $300.00. Mr. James Kidder was appointed toll-gatherer, his compensation for the year following to be $350.00 and the use of the house. February 22, 1805, a committee was chosen to attend the General Court and oppose the passage of the cut or canal† through the turnpike into Mystic river which has been petitioned for by Benjamin Hall and others. June 27, 1805, voted, that in future the affairs of the corporation shall be conducted by five

* The Medford house was built in 1805 and opened as a tavern that same year.
† The branch canal.

proprietors who shall be annually chosen directors, and who shall choose a president out of their own body.

About halfway between the Medford and Charlestown line and the toll house there was a private way leading from the farm of E. H. Derby* to Broadway, now known as Temple street in Somerville. Certain persons desirous of avoiding the climb over Winter Hill and also desirous of avoiding the payment of toll, were in the habit of using the Medford end of the turnpike and passing through the private way to Broadway, and on their return passing over the same route. The proprietors of the road petitioned the General Court for additional legislation to put a stop to this practice. An act was passed March 8, 1808, providing that "from and after the passage of this Act, if any person with a team, carriage, cattle or horses shall turn out of or into the road of the Medford Turnpike Corporation with an attempt to avoid any toll established by law, such persons shall forfeit and pay three times as much as the legal toll at the Turnpike gate established as aforesaid; to be recovered by the Treasurer of the Corporation by an Action of debt. . . ."

At a meeting of the corporation held January 6, 1812, the Treasurer's account being examined showed that the amount of money received in the quarter ending January 1, 1812, was $673.21, and the amount of expenditure $302.05, and it was ordered that a dividend of four dollars be paid on each share. At a meeting held August 27, 1838, a committee was chosen to act on behalf of the corporation, touching the petition of Daniel Lawrence and others, then pending before the county commissioners, with full powers to give the assent of the corporation to the prayer of the petitioners for laying out the said turnpike road for a *public highway*, whenever the said committee shall receive satisfactory assurances that the compensation or damages to be allowed by said commissioners will not be less than $75.00 on each share.

*The Temple estate or "Ten-hill farm" of Governor Winthrop.

The county commissioners *declined* to take action upon the above petition. At a meeting held April 10, 1843, it was voted to pay L. Spaulding for work done on the turnpike for the year ensuing $1.25 per day for April, May, June, July, August, September, October and November, and $1.00 per day for December, January and March, and $1.00 per day for horse and cart for the year. Also to pay fifty dollars per quarter for tending the toll gate. When the building of the Medford branch railroad was under consideration (1846) the Turnpike Corporation voted to sell the franchise of the corporation to the Boston and Maine Railroad Extension Company (later called the B. & M. Railroad Co.) for the sum of $10,000 including all the damage sustained by the railroad crossing said turnpike. September 6, 1860, it was voted to sell the land and buildings then occupied by the toll gatherer, Thomas Perkins, to the said Perkins for the sum of $600.00.

At a meeting held May 8, 1861, it was voted that the corporation hereby give their consent to the county commissioners of Middlesex County to lay open their road as a public highway, upon the petition of George T. Cutter and others, the said commissioners awarding to the corporation what damages shall in their judgment be right and just. The committee appointed to confer with the county commissioners reported that the commissioners do not deem it expedient to take any action at present.

At a meeting held January 24, 1866, it was voted that the directors be directed to petition the legislature for leave to abandon the Medford turnpike. The petition was presented January 27, 1866, and leave to abandon was granted, and the road was laid out by the county commissioners as a public way. The amount of assessments on each share was $430.00, making a total of $43,000.00. The number of dividends was 129, but the total amount is not stated in the records.

The foregoing history of the Medford Turnpike Corporation is taken largely from the record book of the

corporation. It is evident that the undertaking was not a profitable one, and that during the last thirty years of the existence of the corporation it was the main object of the proprietors to rid themselves of the burden of its maintenance. The laying out of Medford street in Medford and Somerville around the southerly side of Winter Hill, thus avoiding the climb over the top of the hill, contributed to reduce the revenue of the company and thus assisted in its final collapse.

The turnpike road was used by the sporting portion of the community as a course for the speeding of horses. There was a tree which stood on the southerly side of the road that was *just one mile* from the old saw and grist mill. The only disadvantages experienced by the sportsmen were the clouds of dust that filled the air, for the road was about the dustiest place to be found far or near.

An interesting incident that happened in those days was due to the dust before mentioned: A wealthy citizen of Medford, doing business in Boston, was in the habit of driving to and fro between his place of business and his home in Medford. These same sports, above mentioned, found great pleasure in annoying our townsman by speeding their horses by and in front of him, compelling him to be almost smothered by the dust raised by their horses' feet. Our townsman stood the annoyance until forbearance ceased to be a virtue with him. Then he placed an order with a horse dealer for a horse to *beat* the crowd at *whatever cost.* He got what he wanted, and took no more dust from anyone.

We never heard of the toll-gatherer being robbed of a busy day's receipts, as was the case in other places, but the turnpike road was once the scene of a sensational highway robbery, when Major Bray was held up and robbed by the notorious highwayman, Mike Martin. It is said that on Mrs. Bray's handing over her watch, the "knight of the road" immediately returned it, saying he "never robbed a lady."

It was quite a common sight to see Colonel Samuel

Jaques of the Ten-hills farm, bugle in hand, ride up and down the road to and from the hunting grounds mounted on his hunting horse and followed by a pack of hounds.

JOHN H. HOOPER.

More About the Turnpike

There has recently come into the possession of the Medford Historical Society the record book of the Medford Turnpike Corporation. Of its two hundred and sixty-eight pages, one hundred and forty-one are occupied with the act of incorporation, passed March 2, 1803, the records of various contracts, and of stockholders' and directors' meetings, closing with that of January 24, 1866. Its unruled pages are enclosed in stiff board covers, eight by thirteen inches in size. These were once covered with two layers of leather, shown by fragments remaining and folded over the edges, and fly-leaves securely pasted over them. On the first of the latter, in the upper left-hand, appears (in pencil), "3 Qr. $1.50."

Following the transcript of the charter is a copy of advertisement in the *Centinel*, calling the first meeting to be held on April 11, 1803, at the tavern of Hezekiah Blanchard, Jr. Benjamin Hall was its moderator, and Luther Stearns clerk, continuing as such until 1821.

This is the book referred to by Mr. Hooper in this issue. Since his article was written there has been published a work entitled, "The Turnpikes of New England." Its author, a civil engineer, in preparing a report on some public utility, ventured (as he says) into the *historical* side of the matter. Search in an extensive library, under the head of turnpikes, yielded him nothing but in one instance, and that a work of fiction. Nothing daunted, he began to gather authentic facts, with a magazine article in prospect. The work grew in his hands, until now after twelve years of remarkable research, a volume of over four hundred pages is the result.

Among the fine illustrations are eight views in Med-

ford. One hundred and fifty pages are devoted to "Turnpikes of Massachusetts," some seventy in number. If the author could have seen this old record book he would have found some of his deductions relative to Medford turnpike (which he reached by sound reasoning rather than by any real evidence) well sustained, and they were contrary to those expressed in history of Medford. With data therefrom, his very readable Medford page might have been quadrupled.

The first thirty years of the nineteenth century was the era of canal and turnpike development. In whose brain the idea of a level road to Charlestown, in two unbroken straight lines, originated, we cannot say; probably that of Benjamin Hall, then the leading business man of Medford, who took one-tenth of its capital stock.

Medford was, in 1803, a town of but twelve hundred inhabitants, its only direct route to Boston being the old road over the top of Winter hill, through Charlestown to the Charles river bridge but fourteen years built. It was a long, hard pull up and over the hill, not only for the local teams, but for the much greater volume of traffic and the stages from northern Middlesex and New Hampshire. So this new, shorter, and level route was apparently a feasible, practical and desirable investment. Steam travel was then thirty years in the future, electric power unheard of, and the automobile undreamed of.

There were no serious engineering problems to cope with. It crossed but two water-courses, Two-penny and Winter brooks, both insignificant, though Captain Adams was very early inquiring about their "culvits," the sluices the charter required. More expensive to build and maintain was the bridge by which it crossed the Middlesex canal near its terminal in Charlestown.

Only at one other point were they two close neighbors —where they crossed the town line. The canal, only the previous year, had used about all the available space in the base of the ledgy hill for its course, and the turnpike company had to build a "river wall" for some distance

to sustain its road. In 1840 this was *rebuilt* by Messrs. Ackerman & Co. for a dozen rods for $351.00. This locality was commonly known as the "Rock,"* and was the place where the adroit stage-drivers, in passing, sprinkled a few drops of Concord river water from the canal into the salt Mystic with their whip-lashes to the passengers' amusement.

For the greater part of its length of three and a half miles its mode of construction was simple. The marsh mud dug from a dozen feet on each edge of the six-rod lay-out was piled upon the central space, and the embankment thus formed surfaced with gravel, hauled on by the "two yoke of oxen" in a "broad-wheeled wagon," the record mentions.

At our present reading, and considering the wages paid a century ago, it seems as if the company paid big money for some of its land, and much more for construction, to have expended $44,000.00 thereon, to say nothing of the continual resurfacing required.

Once entered upon this road, the traveler was compelled to follow its course, as the ditch on either side was either filled by tidewater or would mire him if he attempted to cross to the public road before reaching the toll-gate. Though there were a few bridges across the intervening canal, they were private property, and their approaches closed.

There was one, however, beyond the "Rock," that gave trouble, and special legislation was secured to protect the company from the "Shunpikers" that made a practice of evading toll by using General Derby's lane across Ten Hills farm to present Broadway. Between this and "Ploughed hill" (later known as Mt. Benedict) was the "dyked marsh" and clay land, with numerous brick-yards. The site of some of these later became a nuisance, abated by the city of Somerville in the early seventies by the making of its park and widening of Broadway.

* See REGISTER, Vol. XIII, p. 79.

On the summit of Ploughed hill was, in 1826, erected the convent of St. Ursula, burned by a mob from Boston on the night of August 11, 1834. It is said that the courage of the rioters was largely increased by the "arrival of a barrel of rum from Medford." Of this we cannot with certainty say, but the blackened ruins of the walls stood, witnessing to the disgraceful proceeding, for more than thirty-four years, when the hill began to be reduced to the present grade.

As the toll-gate and keeper's house was at the base of Ploughed hill, quite near the southern end, it is evident that the *Shunpikers* were inward bound.

The question is naturally asked, "Was the turnpike a paying proposition?" Major Wood in his work says,

> Of course no turnpike was a gilt-edged security, but the Medford must have been one of the best and a moderate dividend payer.

From the *record* book it is difficult to say just when its first was paid. Under date of January 6, 1810, is —

> Voted
>
> That instead of making a dividend for the quarter which ended on the first day of the present month that the Treasurer be authorized to purchase one acre of gravel land adjoining the turnpike and canal at or under three hundred dollars and that previously to his making the payment that he be requested to be satisfyed with the title and to have a deed in the name of the Medford Turnpike Corporation and have the same immediately put on record
>
> P. C. Brooks Pres[t].

This *vote* is in the elegant handwriting of George L. Stearns, son of the clerk. It alludes to the continual repair that was needful.

The first *recorded* dividend is of date January 1, 1812, $4.00; the second *recorded*, July 5, 1813, $4.00. There may have been dividends paid prior to the above, as by the record of October 12, 1804, it was voted

> That the first dividend of the toll shall be made by the standing committee on the first day of January 1805 and that dividends shall be made quarterly ever afterwards

Doctor Stearns died suddenly in 1820, and was suc-

ceeded by 'Squire Abner Bartlett, who served for twenty-one years, and his record, clear and explicit, in good black ink in characters as formidable as the turnpike gates, makes no mention whatever of dividends. James O. Curtis succeeded him in 1841, and on June 29, 1842, recorded —

Voted to make a dividend of two dollars on a share from the funds in the treasury, it being the 108 dividend

After ten years George Curtis succeeded to the office of clerk and served thirteen years. He recorded the remaining dividends, the last, September 15, 1860. The two preceding had resulted from the sale of gravel land purchased from the canal company at its closure, and the last (the 129th) from the sale of the toll-house, $6.00 to each of the one hundred shares.

Unlike its unfortunate neighbor, the canal, the turnpike now had no available or salable holdings, and for six years held its annual meetings, elected officers, voted a compensation of $15.00 to its agent and $5.00 to the clerk. Its last record, January 24, 1866, tells its pathetic story,

That the Directors be directed to petition the Legislature to abandon the Medford Turnpike
Voted, to dissolve.

A pencilled line follows —

Petition presented in House Jan 27 '66

After sixty-three years the original stockholders had passed on and their shares were held by their heirs or assigns by purchase in its better days. To them there was nothing coming.

It would be of interest to know just what was realized in dividends for the use of the $440.00 per share invested in 1803–4. The Middlesex canal, on ceasing to pay dividends in 1843 had returned to its stockholders 1.39 per cent. on their investment, but had the proceeds of its property to distribute at the last. It was styled financially a dismal failure.

We have not the data by which to make such a computation of the turnpike as was made by the canal agent in 1843. We fear that could such be obtained, if ever the treasurer's books reappear, the Medford turnpike will make a more dismal showing.

M. W. M.

TURNPIKES PAST AND PRESENT.

In a press notice of *Turnpikes of New England*, its writer quotes "rare Ben Johnson" as saying:

I turn up my axle like a turnpike.

Having in his boyhood journeyed over the Medford turnpike and been held up thereon, not by highwaymen but by "toll-gatherer," until the requisite coin was produced, the present writer can claim a slight acquaintance. But as "rare Ben Johnson" lived and flourished in the sixteenth century, there is no one in Medford who knew him personally, or saw him turn up his axle. Ask any of the older people in Medford what was or is a turnpike and the reply will be, "Why, it was Mystic avenue;" or, "It is a road on which a toll is paid for the privilege of traveling thereon." But how did Ben Johnson *turn up* his axle (whatever that was) to make it resemble Mystic avenue or any other toll road?

Upon consulting the dictionary, a great help in trouble, we find its definition of turnpike to be:

Ordinary Language. (1.) A frame, consisting of two bars crossing at right angles, and turning on a pin or post placed on a road or footpath to hinder the passage of beasts, but admitting a person to pass between the arms. (2.) A turnstile.

This was supported by a quotation:

I move upon my axle like a *turnpike*.
—*Ben Johnson*, *Staple of News*, *III*, *1*.

Further search in our Public Library (by the ready courtesy of one of the staff) shows that Ben Johnson didn't *turn up* his axle. Rather, he dug into ancient mythology, and made one of his characters (Picklock by name) to say:

Tut, I am Vertumnus. On every change, or chance, upon occasion a true chamelion; I can colour for it,
I move upon my axle like a turnpike,
Fit my face to the parties, and become straight one of them.

Neither did the said (aptly named) Vertumnus "turn up" *his* axle, or turn up on it, but moved (or turned) *upon* it. He was a sort of all things to all men and everything to everybody. It is evident that "rare Ben Johnson" was misquoted in the recent press notice, otherwise an excellent one.

The "Medford Turnpike Corporation" (like all others) by its charter was authorized to set up and maintain "a turnpike gate or gates." Old residents cannot remember any such as above described, and there is nothing in the "Act" that speaks of toll on pedestrians. They tell of the toll-gate as a bar or pole, hung at one end and swinging horizontally across the road. Other roads were barred by a pole raised to a vertical position while teams passed by. Out of this latter form has been evolved (since 1870), the universally adopted gate now in use at railway grade crossings.

Referring to our dictionary definition, some may ask the difference between turnpike and turnstile: A pike was a weapon of ancient time, cruder and blunter than a spear, yet pick-ed, peak-ed, or piked at its "business end." So in a *turn*-pike, the ends of the wooden bars were cut on an angle, *i.e.*, pick-ed. When more consideration was shown for the comfort and safety of the passers, the ends of the bars were left square, or rounded somewhat, and such arrangement came to be known as a turn-*stile.*

Doubtless there were others of this latter in Medford, but the only one the present writer recalls was on High street, at present Kilgore avenue, in 1870 and later. The city of Charlestown had an easement right, through the Brooks estate to its dam at the partings of Medford pond. At that time there was a wall of Medford granite the entire distance from the railroad to Wear bridge, only broken by Grove street, the "Delta" and the farm gates.

One of these was over the water works conduit,* and beside it was a turnstile of two-inch plank. On a pleasant Sunday afternoon the writer made his first visit to the Mystic dam, in company with several gentlemen, one of whom, rather portly, found it a "close squeeze," as he said, to get through.

But the *real turnpike* did not pass away when the toll or turnpike roads became free. It continues in use, very much in evidence, today. The first railroad chartered in Massachusetts had provision for toll-gates at intervals, evidently with the thought that private individuals might operate their own cars on its railed roadbed. It erected gates at its only grade crossing in Medford, at High street, and its station or "depot" there was known as "Medford Gates." These were for public protection,† and *not* toll-gates. Instead of a number of "toll-gatherers" along the line, there is but one, and he accompanies the train, comes around at intervals and collects our toll. He is called by the pleasanter sounding name of "conductor," but we pay the toll just the same. The railway terminals have *sliding* pike gates, through which patrons pass easily, but have been on some occasions obliged to *show* tickets before passing.

But reserved for later years and the Boston Elevated and Terminal service was and is the *real genuine turnpike*, elaborated in various forms. Unlike the old stile that turned both ways, one more like a *turnstile* moves inward. To enter, one has to "fit face to the party," walk up to the pagoda where sits enthroned the goddess of the gate, deposit a dime in her treasure chest, and wait her pleasure in pressing her dainty foot on the lever that unlocks the gate and allows your ingress. Even then your troubles are not over. Perchance you wait for a time, but you insinuate yourself into a crowded car, jammed in by the crowd behind you, or perhaps pushed in by the attending guard as the rubber shod *push-pike* (styled the door) closes behind you, and cautions you not to lean against it.

*See REGISTER, Vol. XX, p. 1.
†See REGISTER, Vol. VIII, p. 86, Vol. XVII, p. 88.

Beside the entrance turnstile is the exit to the outer world, and this is the real thing. A *veritable turnpike*, taller than you, with three dozen *pikes* (smooth, to be sure) set at right angles from a tall post, turns outward and lets you depart, only later to renew your experience.

But Ben Johnson's turnpike had no escalator. Uncle Sam has a modification of the turnpike at the Boston post office entrances, in the form of revolving doors, and so do the great department stores. At these there is no toll taken on going in; generally we *spend* more or less before coming out. But in all cases, whether steam or electric railroad, post office, or department store, we are supposed to get our money's worth. The *patrons* of the Medford turnpike did, but we fear the *investing proprietors*, or rather their successors, thought otherwise at last.

The turnpike or toll roads are gone, the *real* turnpikes are still with us.

THE MILLS ON THE MEDFORD TURNPIKE.

Whether the proprietors of the Medford turnpike "builded better than they knew" or not is unknown to any of whom we may now enquire, but the fact was that by its building, a water power was created and later improved as a mill privilege by the owners (or their assigns) of the marsh land through which it passed.

One Captain Adams evidently saw possibilities as shown by the proprietor's record of August 23, 1804:

Voted, That the request of Captain Adams respecting the Culvits be referred to the Committee to report their opinion at the next meeting.

Also of Friday, October 12, 1804:

Voted, That the Standing Committee be authorized to make a contract with Captain Nathan Adams respecting the flow of water at the Culvits.

These "culvits" were the stone bridges built to carry the "causey" or turnpike road over Two-penny and Winter brooks. Both had their source in Somerville, and

flowed through the southern corner of Medford into Mystic river. The latter is now mostly subterranean at Tufts park. The former has lately been before our Board of Aldermen for alleged misconduct. Its source is on the southern slope of College (Walnut Tree) hill, near Broadway, and its course through the Tufts athletic field can easily be traced, but often innocent of water Passing beneath the railroad its course (when it has any, as in recent years) is changed somewhat,* but returns to the old, before crossing the highway, and at the turnpike widens, and is the "Canal cut from Medford river wherein a lighter can come up,"† once belonging to Isaac Royall. It does not appear that Captain Adams developed any water power from Two-penny brook; it was more likely that his action was in the interest of his brick yards near by.

But in 1813, in July, signed by Peter C. Brooks, president (and the seal of the corporation), on the part of the turnpike proprietors, and Samuel Dexter (and a seal) was the following "contract":

The Medford Turnpike Corporation agree with Samuel Dexter of Boston Esqr. that he, his heirs and assigns forever, shall have the right of opening and keeping open a sluiceway under the Medford Turnpike, in addition to that which has been opened and is maintained at the expense of the corporation. The said new sluice to be opened and maintained for the benefit of the said Dexter, and at the proper charge of him, his heirs and assigns. Which is not to exceed five feet in height or in breadth. And it is also agreed that said Dexter, his heirs and assigns shall have the right of making and managing gates on either side of either of said sluiceways, for the purpose of flowing his marsh with salt water or with fresh water, or draining the same at pleasure. And said Dexter for himself, his heirs and assigns, agrees with the said corporation, that they shall be forever indemnified for any damage that shall manifestly appear to be occasioned to said turnpike road on the old sluiceway by said sluice so to be opened by him, or by the flowing of said marsh as aforesaid. And if the parties cannot agree upon the same, it shall be ascertained by three referees, and if they cannot agree on such referees, the said corporation shall have the right at all times to apply to the Chief Justice of the Sup. Jud. Court of

*See REGISTER, Vol. XIX, p. 13, Com. of J. H. Hooper.
†See REGISTER, Vol. XVI, p. 77.

Massachusetts for the time being, to appoint them, and the award of such referees or the major part of them shall be final, and if the same shall not be satisfied by sd. Dexter, his heirs and assigns in thirty days after notice of such award and demand of payment in writing, this agreement shall be void; but said Dexter, his heirs and assigns, to satisfy such award notwithstanding.

Then follows the other part whereby Dexter (of Boston) guarantees the privilege of taking broken stone and gravel under certain limitations as consideration on his part.

It may be noticed that the above contains nothing of a mill either already built, or to be built, but probably business men of the ability of Mr. Brooks and his associates knew what they were doing. With the incoming of the salt-water tide twice a day to flood the *mash*, as many called it, assisted by the fresh water of the brooks, the privileges thus granted created a new water power or mill privilege, in Medford, and the turnpike thus became, though never so called, a milldam road. Sometimes, however, it was called by a shorter prefix.

In 1848 the turnpike agent was directed "to Consult Counsell," and later "to confer with the Messrs. Tufts in regard to damage sustained by the corporation by their neglecting to maintain their culvert," etc. The result of this conference was a three-party agreement. The first party was the owner of the farm occupied by J. Q. Adams; the second, the turnpike company; and the third "the owners of the saw and grist mills on the turnpike," William Tufts, Edward Tufts and Gershom Cutter. The first two and Joseph F. Tufts were the farm owners, and James O. Curtis, treasurer, represented the turnpike, which for a similar consideration of stone and gravel, agreed that the mill owners,

their heirs and assigns shall retain the right to the Culvert or sluice at said mills, and the right to keep the same open forever, under the conditions hereinafter named: said owners, their heirs and assigns, to maintain at their own expense and to keep in good repair so far as same affects said Turnpike. Said Culvert at the mills is in addition to that which has been opened by said Corporation, and which

is to be kept free and maintained forever at the sole expense of said Corporation. . . .

This agreement shall terminate and become void if said Turnpike should be changed to a County road; or if the proprietors of said mills shall cease to use the water privilege connected therewith. But in no other event to become void within twelve years from date hereof. And in any event to become void at the expiration of twelve years.

It appears by record of January 4, 1834, that Nathan Tufts asked for leave to open a cut through the road, fifteen feet wide, to carry his new mill near the "Rock," so called. This indicates that there had been at least *one* prior to that date.

William R. Cutter, in REGISTER, Vol. III, p. 130, says:

Gershom Cutter, in 1845, purchased the Tufts mill on the Medford Turnpike, rebuilt that structure which had been destroyed by fire and which was again burnt while in his charge. He was mainly engaged in sawing of mahogany.

By the above we see that at least four successive mills stood on that spot — the extreme point of marsh land between the river and turnpike at the "Rock." The Cutter residence was on the opposite side of the road. (See frontispiece.)

The Walling map of Medford shows (apparently) a dike extending diagonally across the marsh (including the mouth of Winter brook) to the river. Probably as much power was had at this mill as at Mr. Cutter's former location on old Ship street, but like all tide-mills, the hours of labor had of necessity to conform to the ever-changing hours of "full sea" and ebb of the tide that "*waits* for no man," but *serves* well. Though the agreement of 1848 refers to saw and grist mills, it is unlikely that the later ones were other than saw mills.

The sawing of mahogany is a "forgotten industry" of Medford. But in those days it was an important one in Medford and South Woburn (later Winchester); at the latter it continued until the destruction by fire of the Cutter mills about 1872. The great logs, hewed square, were hauled from Charlestown by teams of horses, two

to five harnessed tandem,—*string team* it used to be called, and often but *two* logs made the load, so large and heavy were they. Such could only be sawed by the old style up-and-down saw into boards and planks. The smaller and costlier ones of "branch" and "burl" were made into veneers by a circular saw some five feet in diameter. Its teeth were cut in steel plates, in segments a foot long and fastened by screws to the circumference of an iron disk at the end of an arbor. In this sawing of veneers as much valuable wood was wasted in sawdust as was obtained by the process. This led to the invention and building at Winchester, in 1867, of a machine that cut by *knife* process logs up to twelve feet long into veneers as *thin* as one hundred to the inch, wasting practically nothing.

Just when this Medford mill ceased operation, or whether it ceased by limitation contained in the above agreement, we may not say with certainty. The Fire Department report says:

> Jan. 21, 1872. Mill building on Mystic Ave., supposed to be by incendiary. The building was a total loss.

This account is written at some length, because neither Mr. Brooks nor Mr. Usher made any mention of this mill in their History of Medford. Mr. Hooper, in the scant space allotted him, made brief note of it, but the REGISTER, in Vol. XIV, p. 68, fixed the identity of the "miller's dwelling," (Gershom Cutter's) a view of which had been shown as the *toll-house* several times, unchallenged. This house is said to have been burnt, but as yet we find no record of the fire. It is probable that the view we present was secured about 1890, by Mr. Will C. Eddy. With its burning disappeared the last vestige of a Medford business covering a period of fifty years; unless, indeed, something of the dike may be traced. If so, even that may be obliterated if the projected improvements upon the Mystic materialize.

THE ANDOVER TURNPIKE.

In the October, 1919, issue of the REGISTER appears a view of Forest street, originally the Andover turnpike, also "Scraps of Paper" relative thereto.

As this is *Turnpike number* we show its toll-house by the forethought of the late George E. Davenport, who secured the view long after the old toll-road had become a public highway.

The road itself for the six miles from Medford square to Reading line represented an outlay of nearly $50,000. Its proprietors were supposed to make annual return to the State authorities, and are said to have done so concerning their first two years' business, being an algebraic sum of minus $250. In not continuing to report, they were not more negligent than others, and probably no more profitable than others.

The Andover was a continuation of the Essex turnpike, which seems to have built the portion through Reading. It is said that there was provision for the maintenance of *one* gate at the county line. Be that as it may, it is certain that there was a toll-gate at this house in Medford. Major Wood says that in declaring the turnpike a public road, the county commissioners awarded the proprietors $3,000 damage and allowed them eighteen days to remove their gates and personal property; also that the dissatisfied corporation asked for a jury award, which being refused, next petitioned the Supreme Court for a mandamus in the case, also denied, and that in 1837 the Andover and Medford turnpike passed into history. It would appear that the commissioners were more generous than with the Medford, who in point of time "went further and fared worse."

The old toll-road has become a beautiful residential street. Two of the old mile-stones remain in position. Near the first it is joined by the Fellsway, and close there also the street railway tracks extend onward into the Reservation, making the locality better known than ever it could have been in turnpike days. As can be seen,

the toll-house was a substantial structure, as were those of its day. Save that it had a central chimney, instead of two at the rear, it was a counterpart of those erected just before at West Medford and Wilmington by the Middlesex Canal Company. The latter, in 1807, was built at a cost of $833.73 (as per record)* and the same figure may well apply to this. Inquiry as to whether this house still remains brings no satisfactory reply. It may have been burnt, removed, or remodelled to different style during the years that have elapsed. Mr. Hooper informs us that though this was the residence of the toll-man and his family, the *real toll-house* was a little cabin on the other side of the road. It resembled the old-time shoemakers' shops, once so numerous in Eastern Massachusetts, and may have been thus used. This has long since gone, but the turnpike road has improved.

CORRECTION.

One letter wrong makes a lot of difference sometimes. In our last issue appears on p. 69:

Sunday School mistresses for poor, 32.98.

The typesetter followed copy carefully in capitalization, but though proficient in the *three* R's, substituted an *a* for the *one* in Sundry, and the proof-reader, (and editor likewise) let it "get by" in four readings, to stare at us at publication.

As it stands (Vol. XXII, p. 69), it is an *anachronism* as well as a mis-statement. There were *no Sunday* schools in Medford in *1819*, and certainly Medford as a town never paid any *teachers* in such, had there been any. The statement should have read:

Sundry School mistresses for poor 32.98.

*Middlesex Canal record.

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FORM OF BEQUEST.

I give and bequeath to the Medford Historical Society, in the city of Medford, Mass., the sum of _____ Dollars for the general use and purposes of said Society.

(Signed) _____

J. C. MILLER, JR., PRINTER, MEDFORD.

MEDFORD TOWN PUMP, 1812–1848

From drawing and data
of Francis A. Wait

Sketch by
F. H. C. Woolley

The Medford Historical Register.

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MEDFORD BRANCH CANAL.

ON May 16, 1805, the Massachusetts Legislature passed

An ACT to incorporate Benjamin Hall, Esquire and others, by the Name of Proprietors of the Medford Branch Canal and Locks between the Middlesex Canal and Mystic River, and easterly of the Post Road leading from Charlestown to Medford.

A bibliography of that old Middlesex canal would be of much interest as, judging by the articles (often illustrated) that have appeared in the weekly issues of Boston papers, there is a fascination connected therewith. The writer confesses to having come under its spell, and derived much pleasure and satisfaction therefrom, even though it entailed much study, work and travel. Some years since he was rallied a little for his neglect of the present subject, having only made the briefest mention thereof. Search in his own collection of the work of various writers, fails to reveal more attention paid by them to this branch canal. The recent acquisition by the Historical Society of the original record book of the Medford Turnpike Corporation gives some data, and the present seems a fitting time to notice this short but essential connection of the famous old waterway with the "Medford river" of those days (the Mistick of earlier), today called *Mystic*.

Why essential? *First*, because the Middlesex canal (opened two years before) was a *through line* to Charles river and Boston. Contrary to original intent, it left Medford at one side with only a "way station" at the further end of its first level in a corner of the "West End." There the original survey was commenced by

"Samuel Thompson of Woburn, who began his work and proceeded from Medford river near the location of the present lock."*

There, *was* to have been the southern *terminal* of the canal, and from there the tidal flow of the river made a continuous waterway through Medford to Boston harbor. At that identical spot this article is written.

Second, because a new industry (perhaps unthought of at the inception of the canal) had arisen in Medford, *i.e.*, ship-building. It was a "long haul" and a heavy one to transport ship timber up and down hill for two miles, as was the case of that coming down from the north country on the canal, and the same was true of other commodities.

Third, it was claimed that the management was not of the best, and that the canal was deficient in one important requisite, viz., water. It was also said that its extension to Charlestown had been unwise, and perhaps the Medford Branch canal proprietors anticipated this to be a remedy. The shortage of water was later relieved by placing ten-inch flashboards on the dam across Concord river at Billerica. The canal proprietors had to fight in the courts for what they got, and the reports thereof are interesting reading today. Benjamin Hall, the principal corporator, left on record his views of the matter, plainly expressed.†

Itt is Very Evident that the Corporation has not Fullfill'd there Part of the Act Untill they have Lockt the same in Medford River.

The legislative record states that permission had been obtained for connecting with the Middlesex canal. The act fixed the capital stock at thirty shares, one vote to each, provided no one shareholder had more than five shares. It allowed them to hold real estate to the value of ten thousand dollars, and fixed the rate of toll at one-sixteenth of a dollar per ton; toll was to commence as soon as the canal was completed. It also gave specific direction as to construction and maintenance of a bridge

*See Historical Sketch of Caleb Eddy, agent of canal, 1843.
†See REGISTER, Vol. III, p. 87.

for the Medford turnpike. This branch canal was of necessity at a lower level than the other and required two locks for its operation. Land was purchased of Samuel Dexter and William H. Sumner (owners of Royall estate), seven and one-half acres and two rods for $751.25, and was to revert to the grantors if disused for two years.

A storage basin* was constructed on this land, beside the main canal, with a side lock, or gates, in the embankment to give access thereto. Mr. Hooper, who when a boy lived nearby on the turnpike, says the lock was a big timber-framed box between two heavy stone walls which were several feet away, and timber braces between, up and down which the boys could climb. His description tallies with that given by others of the *wooden* locks of the Middlesex canal.

At the opposite side of the basin, a lock was built like those in the canal, and from it to the river the branch canal was excavated at the requisite lower level. There another lock of the same size was erected, but with tidal gates at the river end. These locks were of timber and plank construction, reinforced by heavy stone walls. The remains of the latter lock, slowly decaying for sixty years, were removed but a few years ago, when the extension of the parkway was made along the river's edge.

That the branch canal was completed and in operation in 1807, is shown by Miss Wild in her excellent memorial of Benjamin Hall† as follows:

> In two years (1807 to 1809) $256.98 were received for tolls. Jonathan Warner and John Jaquith were the keepers of the locks. The first dividend was declared in February, 1809—four dollars on a share of one hundred dollars.

The Middlesex canal paid none till 1819.

How long the branch maintained a separate corporate existence, or that it was merged with the other we may not say, but we know the time came when it shared in the decadence and final abandonment in 1852.

*The area of this is still noticeable near Mystic avenue.
†See REGISTER, Vol. III, p. 88.

From 1819 to 1835 were the "palmy days of the canal." Those of the branch began earlier and continued longer, as the bulk of its traffic was in ship-timber. It is unlikely that it diverted any of the "through to Boston" shipments. How much of Medford's peculiar product was exported via the branch we may never know, but probably no inconsiderable amount.

Near the basin was the Columbian Hotel, which though on the "Post-road," shared in the general ruin, and was cut in two, moved and made into dwellings. Some factories were built, and houses along Union street, which people called *Back* street. The Branch canal was *back* of that and became a dumping and drainage place. We find no reversion of title when "disused for two years." Probably the "Proprietors" sold it (as did the Middlesex) in closing up their affairs. The unsanitary conditions that were created were more evident with the introduction of water from Spot Pond in 1871, and the "Branch Canal" figures considerably in the reports of the Board of Health in the early seventies. At last the nuisance was abated. Along its course are the Teel carriage factories, the city stables, Water and Sewer Department buildings, and lastly the extension of Mystic Valley parkway.

Across and beside the river are the Cradock dam and lock of concrete masonry, erected by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. During their construction there stood a few rods away the last visible remains of Benjamin Hall's enterprise of a century earlier, the river lock of the Branch canal. At its beginning Mr. Hall had attained an age at which most men retire from active enterprise. He saw it completed and ten years in use ere he passed on.

We can record no story of sentiment or romance of it. Probably none of the excursions to Bacon's grove or the "Lake of the Woods" started on its level. Had they done so the following from *Ballou's Pictorial* of 1855, would well describe the "locking through."

You embarked in a trim built barge with a very comfortable cabin, the craft drawn by two horses harnessed tandem. At the very outstart you entered a lock. The gates enclosed you in a damp wooden receptacle, and you seemed lost to society in the bottom of a mouldy chest. But right ahead the water came sizzling down from above, and you gradually found yourselves rising in the world, finally coming up to quite a respectable elevation. When the gates were swung open, the horses were put to and you resumed your voyage.

As the Medford turnpike had been chartered and built, the Branch canal proprietors were required to construct and maintain the requisite bridge at their crossing It could not be over four and one-half feet above the water, and the approach to it steeper than five inches in one rod.

A meeting of the Turnpike Corporation was held to make remonstrance against the canal charter and a committee appointed to "compromise," then another committee

to attend the General Court and take means to prevent the said canal's passage through the turnpike, but *not* to appear with counsel.

As Benjamin Hall was a prominent shareholder and corporator in all three enterprises, the above seems a little strange, but perhaps it was only a show of resistance. The turnpike records contain but two other allusions to the canal:

July 6, 1807. Voted to allow Peter Tufts, 'Junior' account $7.50 for surveying bason of canal

Feb 10 1834 Voted That the Proprietors of the Medford Branch Canal & Locks be notified to remove the piece of timber from off the top of the bridge over the said canal in the middle of the said turnpike road, it being an inconvenience and an obstruction to the public travel on said turnpike road; also to make their bridge wider and repair the causeway on each side thereof according to law.

Abner Bartlett, esquire, was then the clerk and his entry is followed by

Seved a copy on Mr Stearns

The piece of timber was evidently for the purpose of keeping passage to the right in either direction, and as

this is the only allusion during the years, we may presume that the relations of each corporation were generally pleasant. Eighteen years later (1852), this canal ceased operation, but the turnpike continued a few years longer, only to succumb to the inevitable. Nothing romantic about it, purely utilitarian was the Medford branch canal.

MEDFORD SALTMARSH CORPORATION.

Such was the name of a certain business concern in old Medford, long since forgotten. In response to one of several queries in notice of April meeting, some papers from the Society's archives were exhibited, and remarks made by various members that made the hour one of much interest.

The historian of Medford (in 1855) said

> The strong tendency among us for consociated action makes it easy to form societies for special objects. Medford has its full share.

He, however, devoted less than a page to but two — the Sons of Temperance and the Masonic Lodge — and finished his section with a half page relative to the above Saltmarsh Corporation, which was purely a business affair, and not a fraternal or social improvement.

Probably his brief mention of this enterprise is the only one extant in public print, and for such reason the REGISTER now adds a little to details of Medford affairs in days long gone. Our authority is the Massachusetts Archives and papers above named. On February 9, 1803, eight Medford men, Richard Hall, Benj. Hall, Jr., Nathaniel Hall, Joshua Simonds, Duncan Ingraham, Ebenezer Tufts, Benjamin Tufts, Jr., and Andrew Hall, who were then "Proprietors of a certain tract of Salt Marsh situated in the easterly part of Medford at Labor-in-vain, so-called, bounded southerly by Mistic river, easterly by Malden lines, and otherwise by lands of Hall, Wheelwright and Holt Junr." asked incorporation by the General Court, saying

That said Salt Marsh is exposed to, and greatly injured by depredations from Cattle belonging to other persons — so that it cannot in the present situation be improved to the best advantage. Therefore they pray this Honorable Court to incorporate them into a Society by the name of the Proprietors of Salt Mars in the easterly part of Medford with all the Legal Rights & Authorities by such Corporate bodies enjoyed — So that they may pursue such Regular method, by which they can enjoy the benefits of their Estate aforesaid.

The petition was favorably reported upon, concurred in by the senate. The act was passed on June 15, 1803. Its second section specifies the manner of calling meetings; by warrant of Justice of the Peace "posted up at house of worship in Medford ten days at least before" date of meeting. If any proprietor lived elsewhere, his house of worship was thus decorated. The officers were "a clerk, committees, assessor, collector and a treasurer," with powers as similar town officers had. They could build and maintain a dyke of sufficient height and width, and a fence where each was needed, assessing the cost upon each proprietor. If such assessment was not paid within sixty days, enough of the delinquent's holding could be sold after three weeks' advertising by posting at house of worship. Their petition shows clearly that their marshland was at the extreme corner of the original Cradock farm. Since then Medford has expanded by the annexation of a strip of Malden territory, and, within our memory, of another farther on from Everett, which was also formerly of Malden, both of which form the present Wellington district. At the Mystic river end of that old boundary, be it remembered, was the "brick landing place" in 1803. The other end must have been where, on Malden line, the marsh and upland joined. Just now a glance at Walling's map of Medford (1855) is interesting. It shows the names of some twenty owners of marsh land below Labor-in-vain, among which are a few of those corporators of fifty years before. A look from the windows of the Fellsway car as it rapidly passes the spot today is equally so, revealing

the remains of the dyke—the fence is long since gone—and the "stump marsh" or "pine swamp," unique in character and unlike any other.

Historian Brooks records that Medford's tax upon this corporation in 1822 was $156.27. We have been curious to know why in 1855 he made selection of 1822 to note, also why he listed this business concern among fraternal "societies." At this juncture, we turn to papers in the Historical Society's possession:

First: A request signed by six corporators in 1821, requesting Abner Bartlett, Justice of the Peace, to issue his warrant to one of their number, directing him to call a meeting of the corporation at the hotel in Medford, on Friday, July 27, 1821, at 3 o'clock P. M. This the squire did, directing Benjamin G. Lerned "to notify as the law directs."

Second: A written notice or warrant, evidently the copy the printers used.

Third: A printed copy of the same, with the name of John Bishop in writing, in proper space left therefor.

Fourth: An unused corporation tax notice (printed).

Fifth: A written receipt as follows:

> Medford April 2nd 1822. Received of Mr. B. G. Lerned Collector of the Salt Marsh in Medford, Corporation Sixty-one Dollars & eight cents Collected by him for repairs of proprietors fence.
>
> Nath[l] Hall
>
> Treas. of said corporation.

A perusal of these documents is of interest, and the query naturally arises, was that meeting at the hotel in 1821 the first held by the corporators? If it was, we must conclude that they were slow in their matters to have waited eighteen years before getting down to business. But in view of the above receipt, it would appear that a fence had been erected long enough before as to require repairs, so it is more than probable that they organized at once, and by some neglect or informality had allowed a lapse, and so required the warrant of Squire Bartlett to set the company a-going again. Here

our "documentary evidence" relative to the Saltmarsh Corporation ends. We will add, however, that the long name they styled themselves by in the petition was in the "Act" reduced to our caption; and the words "into a Society" have a pen line drawn through them in the original, in the Archives. Possibly this is a clue to the historian's classification. And so, with the purpose of learning more of its purpose, we ask, "What do you know about salt hay?"

The foregoing was in substance stated by the librarian, who exhibited the papers in evidence. Mr. Hooper followed, in interesting remarks upon the location of the marshes, their ownership by numerous proprietors, often from towns other than Medford, the use and value of the product, and how much esteemed by those farmers. He had long ago participated in the work in haying time himself. The hours of work were governed by the moon's changes, and every householder and farmer had to consult the "tide table" in the "Farmer's Almanac." Much of the grass after cutting had to be "poled off" to the higher land for curing. As the marsh was intersected by ditches for more ready drainage, these were a pitfall, especially for the rear man who could not well see the way, because of the pile of grass before him, and unless warned by the one ahead, would suddenly find himself in the hole. Mr. Hooper's description of the savage bites of the "green-head" flies was very realistic.

No one seemed to know what "*staddles*" were till Mr. Hooper explained that some proprietors, especially those remote from the solid ground, drove clusters of posts into the marsh, leaving the tops about two feet elevated. On these the hay was stacked and removed when the ground had frozen. Some of the "staddles" can still be seen. If horses were used on the marshes, they were provided with oak boards about a foot square, which were fastened under each hoof by an iron clamp, and prevented sinking into the soft marsh mud. The horses soon became accustomed to this somewhat clumsy safe-

guard, and bore off the grass to the main, where it was made up into great loads for the homeward journey. Mr. Hooper gave an interesting account of the stump marsh, which is nearby and which is the remains of a primeval forest sunk *into* the marsh and preserved by the salt water.

Mr. Remele followed by reading an account of the salt marshes of Plum Island and bringing of the day's harvest home on the "gundelows" that may have resembled the "lighters" used in early days on the Mystic. The reading included an almost tragic tale of two clam-diggers, who, caught in a storm, sought refuge in the hay stacked on a staddle. Increasing storm and extreme tide with floating ice lifted the stack and started it out to sea, but fortunately the men were rescued.

Incidentally it was shown that small areas of salt marsh had been utilized as was this as late as in the seventies as far up the Mystic as Boston and Harvard avenues and on Menotomy river; and that perhaps the first named may have had something to do with the present crooked boundary line between Somerville (old Charlestown) and Medford, in 1754.

Many corporations chartered as was this of the Salt Marsh were required by the "Acts" to make returns, annual or otherwise, to the State, but as no penalty for neglect was attached, the rule was often more honored in the breach than in the observance. We have found no such requirement in this case and no return. When or how the corporation dissolved we cannot say. It must now be defunct by "mis-feasance or neglect." The wide stretch of marsh is still there, the big disused clay pits of the brick company on one side, the "stump marsh" on the other, while on the knoll has arisen the populous village of Wellington, its marshes utilized by various "gun clubs," manufactories and "filling stations," which last, then unknown, would have been a wonderment to those old salt marsh proprietors.

PARSON SMITH'S FARM.

It was an easy transition from these latter marshes to the consideration of Parson Smith's farm and barn which was close by one of them. Mr. Hooper located it by his remembrance as near the now disused Cummings schoolhouse and present North street. Rev. William Smith, the father of Abigail, wife of President John Adams, inherited a part of this farm, and at his mother's death "bought a farm in Medford." Such is his entry in his interleaved almanac, the usual manner of keeping a diary in those days. Several of those he kept we have examined, and extracts were read in the above connection.

We find in Nast's *Sketch of Weymouth* that

> in August 1634 [it should be 1734] a call was extended to Mr. William Smith of Charlestown to become the minister at a salary of one hundred and sixty pounds and three hundred pounds settlement, the latter to be paid one hundred pounds annually for three years, all in bills of credit. This invitation was accepted, and on the first Wednesday in December [1734] he was ordained as pastor of the First Church and Parish in Weymouth, which office he retained until his death, Sep 17, 1783, in his seventy-seventh year. He was a graduate of Harvard in 1725.

In reading of Charlestown it is well to remember that at one time Charlestown entirely surrounded Medford, and that in 1754 Medford acquired considerable of Charlestown territory in two parcels.

This Rev. William Smith (who until his ordination was Mister William) was the son of Thomas and Abigail (Fowle) Smith. Thomas Smith was styled "merchant" and had a farm of eighty acres (and house), bounded north by Mystic river, south and southwest by J. Dickson, and east by James Tufts and C. Crosswell. It was situated, as will be thus seen, at the bend of the river and at the end of the old rangeway, now North street. In the division of the estate, nineteen and three-quarters acres fell to the son William, which he seems to have improved by fencing, building a barn and planting an orchard.

Relative to this, we reproduce portions of his diary above alluded to:

1738. Apr. 7 bought of Joseph Porter one hundred and a half of Rails 2/5 P C. £3.7.6
Bought 130 Posts of Charls £5.5.0
Bought of Deacon Waterman 40 Rails £1.10.6.
Bought of Ebenezer Porter 100 Rails
Paid Mr. Willis for Boating up—Rails and posts £1.
Bought of Mr. Austin a Jack 3.10.

1739 January 2. Went to Charlestown Re[turne]d 10
8 I p[reache]d at Charlestown all day
Paid David an Indian the sum of £5. for stone wall
April 15 I p[reache]d
April 13 and 16 grafted in my Orchard and in the Parsonage land abt 80 Grafts Paid Primus £0.8
April 25 Went to Boston
27 Planted 60 Apple Trees at my Farm to South of y^e^ house

1751. June 14 Recd of Mr. Goodwin a Chaise which cost abt. £202 old tenor

1759 Tickets in Boston pier lottery 5 class. No. 1309

1763 June 20 Bought a Farm at Medford cost £1200.
P——d [prayed] to Paul Torrey in his Distress
23 Paul Torrey died 30 at Medford
Aug 18 At Medford—Measured my Farm

There is good reason to believe that the farm he purchased in Medford was the "widow's dower," *i.e.*, the portion held by his mother until her decease, which was then (1763) by the set off of 1754 within (and now) in Medford bounds. On a separate leaf, carefully pinned into the back of the almanac, is

The Expenses of my Farm Barn erected 6th of June 1751

	£	S.	
To 3 thousand of Board nails at 55/			5.0
11 thousand and half of shingle nails, 10 thousand at 24. thousand and half at 25	13.	17.	6
half a thousand of Double tens 2/5	2.	5.	0
Cash for 2 thousand of Boards	27.	0.	0
Cash for 2 thousand of Boards	30.	0.	0
Cash for the Frame	95.	0.	0
Boating it	5.	0.	0
Boating Shingles at 20. p^r^ M. 12 Thousand	1.	4.	0

12 thousand of hemlock shingles or spruce at £3 p m.	36. 0.0
flip	0.14.0
Veal 24/	1.4.0
3 Gallons of Rum at 18 p. G.	2.14.0
Mr Teel paid	3.15.0
Mr Eustice	0.25.0
Mr Oakes	5.0.0
Mr Bicknel and Loud for finishing	30.0.0
Mr Teel for Board &c	16.1.0
	[————]
My Barn cost me	279.14.6
My Chaise Cost	202.0.0
	£479.14.6

On the June interleaf are these entries:

June 2 I p[reache]d
,, 6 Raised my Barn at Charlestown at my farm Abt noon finished. Mr Bicknel worked abt 2 days Mr Humphry abt 5. Mr Loud Son and Bicknel abt 6

These old diaries of the Weymouth pastor, who was born and came to manhood in our vicinity, and who retained a property interest here during his long lifetime are certainly interesting. For instance, note "boating," which shows that the river was a highway in earlier days. We read that when a Medford minister [1847] moved away from the pillared house on South street he did so by a vessel that came up to the wharf before his house. Probably the last such boating was in 1874, when lumber for three houses now standing on Boston avenue was brought from East Boston up the river and unloaded at Auburn street (of this we speak from personal observation). Again note, "David an Indian," his stonelayer, and "Primus," evidently a free negro. Note that the parson spent a week at his farm in January, 1739—going on Monday, preaching on Sunday in the meeting house on the hill in Charlestown (four miles from his farm) on Sunday, the 8th, and returning to Weymouth on the following Tuesday. No steam or electric cars then, and little wonder he needed a new chaise in 1751, that cost almost as much as the new

barn. And this antedated the famous "one horse shay" of Dr. Holmes by fourteen years. Friday had no terrors for Parson Smith,— he set out an orchard and grafted scions on the old trees on that day. They had a merry time at the "raising" of the barn, as note three items therefor. Three men had "framed" it in "about" eleven days' work, and the "raising" only took the forenoon. From the quantity of boards and shingles, the barn was about 30 x 40 feet in size.

The farm originally and when it had become the parson's son's, was said to contain "86½ acres, exclusive of the rangeway and watering place claimed by the town" of Charlestown. We have not ascertained the exact bounds, but by way of illustration, suppose a tract nearly twice that of Boston Common laid down in that corner of Medford (and Somerville) between Boston avenue and Mystic river, and there was Parson Smith's farm, with the house and barn near Cotting and North streets. Through it some fifty years later came the Middlesex canal, eighty-five later the Lowell railroad, but it took a hundred and thirty-three years for Auburn street to connect Medford with that old Charlestown farm. We of this time have seen the changes wrought along the river, and are pleasantly surprised. What might Rev. William Smith, "prepossessing and conciliatory, a favorite, especially among the young, lively and animated as a speaker, and through his long ministry of forty-nine years highly esteemed and beloved," say, could he come by auto or aeroplane to his farm today?

DR. OSGOOD'S HOUSE.

The Reverend David Osgood had been minister of the church in Medford twelve years, when he married, November 1, 1786, Hannah Breed of Charlestown.

Acting on the old adage of procuring a cage before securing the bird, he had erected the substantial dwelling

on High street, at the corner of Powder house road, that was for the remainder of his life his home, and for years after that of his daughters, Mary and Lucy.

Among his papers was preserved a statement of its cost. It may be of interest to such as know the relative value of "old tenor," as compared with the currency of 1785, which, by the way, Dr. Osgood expressed in English money (as this was prior to the adoption of the Constitution), to compare this with another in this issue. In this, there is nothing of a "raising." Without doubt there was one, with abundance of refreshment, both solid and liquid. What among the "thousand little expenses," "stitwork" was, will some one tell?

By the kindness of Mrs. DeLong, long resident there, we have this copy to present:

1785

The most material expenses in build'g an houſe 2 story in height & 42 by 34 upon yᵉ ground.

Land, To set yᵉ houſe upon		£100.0.0
Day Labour	Diging yᵉ cellar aſsisting in ston'g & clear'g &ᶜ, levell'g yᵉ earth ab't yᵉ houſe &ᶜ	16.10.0
Stone hewed 2 rows in yᵉ front		8.0.0
Frame of yᵉ houſe		50.0.0
Boards	Merchant'ble 21m @ 48/ £50. 8.0 Clear 5½m @ 72/ 19.16.0	70.4.0
Shingles	16m. @ 15/ — £12. 2m @ 12/ — 1.4	13.4.0
Clapboards	1m @ £3.18.-0 1½m @ £4. 4.-0 ½m @ 1.10. 0 ½m @ 2. 8. 0	12.0.0
Laths	13m @ 7/.	4.11.0
Bricks	3m @ 20/ £ 3. 0.0 23m @ 18/ £20.14.0 14m @ 16/ 4. 4.0	34.18.0
Lime	14 hhds on an average 31/6	22.0.0
Brads of all sorts 6ᵈ-5ᵈ-4ᵈ-3ᵈ. &ᶜ		2.2.0

Teaming	Carting bricks, sand, stones, boards & all ye other materials for ye houfe	16.0.0
Nails	7½m. @ 12/ £4.10.0 15m 10d @ 9/ 6.15.0 12m 8d @ 6/6 3.18.0 48m 4d @ 3/4 8.0.0 7m 3d @ 3/ 1.1.0	£38.6.5
Painting and ye work at ye eaves door heads, window frames &c		£2.2.0
Mason's bill	Stoning ye Cellar £8.3.-6 1st Stack Chimnies 16.2.0 2nd Stack do pointing ye cellar & plastering 4 rooms 16.15.4 Plastering entry & 1 room abt 270 yds 7 -7 0	£48.7.4
Carpenters on Joiners acct	Finishing ye outfide of ye houfe 5 rooms & ye entry & ye fence in front	£100.0.0
	Errors excepted	£562.8-9

N.B. Blacksmith's bill not yet bro't in, for iron mantle-trees, hinges for great doors, hasps, fasten'gs &c.

Also a thoufand little expenses not mentioned above, such as sedar posts oak & pine stitwork, feveral loads of slate & feveral loads of tile

It must be also remembered yt ye locks, hinges, ketches skrews, bolts, Pullies & lines & weights for ye windows are yet to be purchased

And when these together with all ye other little expenses already contracted fhall be added to ye above ac'ct it cannot fall much fhort of £600.

The houfe will be ftill to paint and ye rooms to paper both thefe may be estimated at abt. £50. & then £100 more will be fcanty to complete ye fence, build ye outhoufes & dig ye well.

After one hundred and thirty-five years, this house, now the Unitarian parsonage, still stands in excellent condition. Parson Osgood might wonder at, but be delighted in, the modern improvements now in it In view of present conditions and prices, we wonder even more what it would cost today.

A RILL FROM THE TOWN PUMP.

(With apologies to Hawthorne.)

Because of recent inquiry, though it seems like "carrying coals to Newcastle" to even try to improve upon "The Pump in the Market-place," so excellently presented before the Historical Society by Miss Gill,* we call attention to our frontispiece, and quote from Nathaniel Hawthorne's "Rill," a favorite selection, always read with interest in our school days.

In far antiquity, beneath a darksome shadow of venerable boughs, a spring bubbled out of the leaf-strewn earth, in the very spot where you now behold me on the sunny pavement. The water was as bright and clear, and deemed as precious, as liquid diamonds. The Indian Sagamores drank of it from time immemorial, till the fearful deluge of fire-water burst upon the red men, and swept their whole race away from the cold fountains. . . . Governor Winthrop on his journey afoot from Boston drank here from the hollow of his hand.

And we may claim a similar genesis for the Medford town pump, in an "ancient spring" whose existence may have been the deciding factor in the location of the original "ferme-house" built by Matthew Cradock's "servants" near the old Indian trail, through what is Medford Square today to the river's fording place. And it is just as certain that the governor refreshed himself with its cool water after crossing the Mistick on his long tramp to Salem.

But we may not follow Hawthorne's pump rill into the baptismal water placed on the communion table, for alas! Medford had no meetinghouse then, nor yet for sixty years, and when she did, the clear water of Marrabel's brook was nearer by.

But as at Salem, in the lapse of years Medford men

vanished from the earth as if mortal life were but a flitting image in a fountain. Finally the fountain vanished also. Cellars were dug on all sides, and cart-loads of gravel flung upon its source, whence oozed a turbid stream, forming a mud-puddle at the corner

*See REGISTER, Vol. XIII, p. 1.

of two streets. . . . But in course of time, a Town Pump was sunk into the ancient spring; and when the first decayed, another took its place, and then another, and still another, till here stand I, to serve you with my iron goblet.

The early history of the Medford town pump cannot be better told than was its contemporary's of Salem; yet we wonder just a little if Salem ever had a pump like that of Medford, shown in our illustration. Had such been the case, it might under the pen of the romancer have given forth a double "stream of eloquence." Also we query, "Was there ever one like it anywhere?" We deem it fortunate that the late Francis Wait, himself a mechanic of ability, made a description of its operation and peculiar features, which our local artist and younger Medford boy has preserved for us in our illustration.

It was probably installed soon after 1812, and after serving the thirsty public for an average human lifetime, was replaced by another of ordinary style in 1848. Our worthy townsman Hooper tells us of the boyish pride he felt when he first was able to operate its pendulum handle, which alternately lifted the water in the two pumps enclosed in the box-like structure, and delivered through a single spout as shown It was a man's job to operate it and fill the big trough from which the horses and cattle drank. We of present day Medford never see an ox in our streets; horses are becoming rare.

What do the generality of Medford children know of pumping water? They would be helpless if set down thirsty in Medford square as it was a century ago. The useful fixture known as the town pump disappeared nearly fifty years ago, soon after the introduction of water from Spot pond. A great iron vase, by courtesy styled a "drinking fountain," took its place. Though it never drank nor become drunk and upheld a lantern to illuminate the way for those who did, it proved too fragile for its purpose, and soon gave way for one of granite. That, after years of use, has disappeared at the suggestion of the State Board of Health — for sanitary reasons.

At time of present writing, and for several weeks, Medford square has been in a state of upheaval by the relaying of railway tracks and street paving. Repeatedly of late, as we have passed down High street, we have walked cautiously in or around a stream of water pumped by an electric pump from the basement of the new building which stands on the sites of the old neighbors of the old town pump.

We think it to have been a rill from "the ancient spring" of three centuries ago.

MEDFORD MYTH OF MENOTOMY.

We again take up the subject of Medford myths, repeating a member's statement, that "thus a whole lot of fable is taught as history." We recall also, that some one has spoken of the "*lies* of record." Disclaiming that "short and ugly word," we will say the one in question is the *mistake* of a contemporary. Sounds better, doesn't it?

In a very readable and interesting book, published by the town of Arlington (1907) on the occasion of the one hundredth anniversary of the incorporation of old Menotomy as West Cambridge, there is a two-page article on Menotomy hall, a brick structure which during its entire history was occupied in its first story as a bakery, and its ovens in use even after the demolition of the building had begun. The second contained a hall, used by the Odd Fellows, Masons and other societies, fraternal, religious and otherwise; and called by the old and pleasant sounding name, Menotomy. After telling of its use by the Congregational and Universalist churches, the account gives an added touch of romance, thus:

> There the successful Methodist Church of West Medford was organized and held meetings for several years.

We have wondered not a little how this statement appears to Arlington people, or to careful readers of his-

tory generally. Why, and especially when there was no public conveyance, should Medford people go *out of town* two miles, leaving their own village, to establish a church and maintain for "several years" public worship?

We answer, *They did not;* and this statement is a *mythical mistake* of its writer, who is still unconvinced of its fallacy, reiterating the same when attention was called thereto. One of the committee of publication admits the misstatement, but asks, "What are you going to do about it?" In reply we say, we cannot expurgate or obliterate the fallacious statement from the entire edition of the book, but state in contradiction of it, that the church in question has its birth certificate in the form of authentic records, written at the identical place of its organization, containing the names of the attending parties, *none* of whom were of Arlington, much less in Menotomy hall on that occasion. This occurred in a dwelling, now 83 Sharon street, West Medford, on the evening of April 1, 1872.*

Of those present on that occasion, but two are today living, and their testimony accords with the above preceding lines. The *mythical mistake* (and we have no thought of its being intentional) could not, nor cannot be verified by record.

The otherwise (so far as we know) excellent history, entitled, "Arlington, Past and Present," published 1907, donated to the Medford Library by Mrs. Carolin Lawrence in 1912, had not been taken out till within a year (as appears from the slip inserted), when it came to our notice. Possibly none other has since then. If so, the REGISTER is giving the Menotomy *mythical mistake* more publicity, but along with it this refutation.

"*Hic fabula docet*," that "if we are to be historical, let us tell the truth."

*See REGISTER, Vol. XIV, p. 25.

ol. XXIII.] [No. 3.

HISTORICAL REGISTER

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MEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

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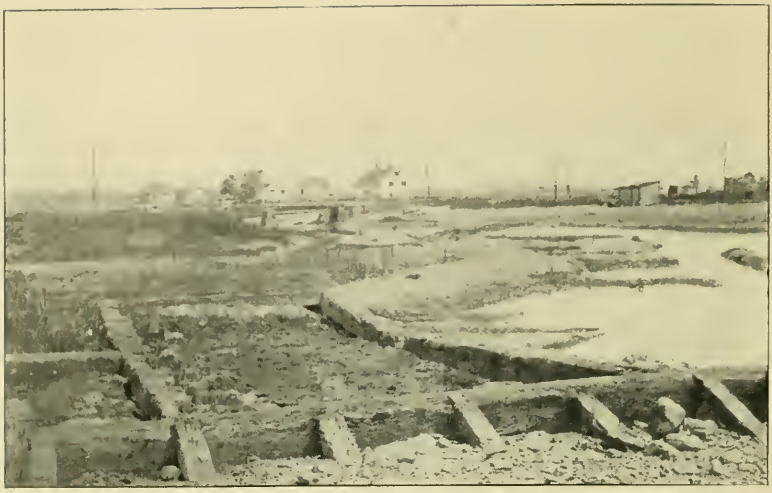
FORM OF BEQUEST.

I give and bequeath to the Medford Historical Society, in the city of Medford, Mass., the sum of _____ Dollars for the general use and purposes of said Society.

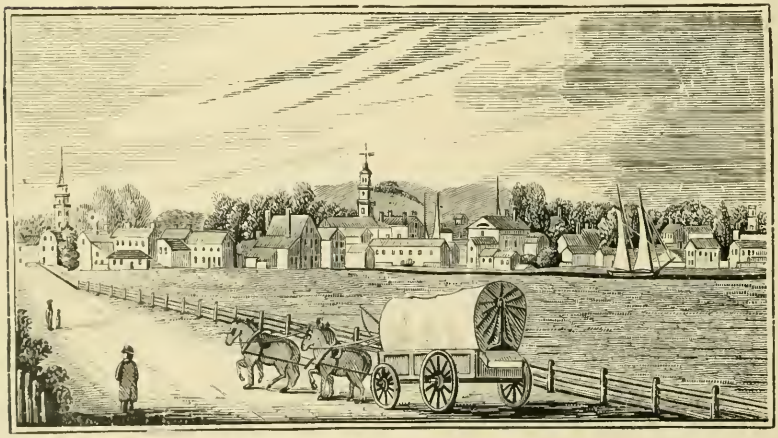
(Signed) _____

J. C. MILLER, JR., PRINTER, MEDFORD.



REMAINS OF FIRST GRISTMILL.

Discovered in July, 1911, during improvement of Mystic river. The location is about 400 feet up stream from Harvard avenue, and the river at its lowest stage.



VIEW OF MEDFORD, MASS.

As entered from the south, upon the Boston road. Printed from the original wood block, engraved for and used in Barber's Historical Collections of Massachusetts, 1839.

The Medford Historical Register.

Vol. XXIII. SEPTEMBER, 1920. No. 3.

SEWAGE IN MYSTIC RIVER.

The Efforts of the Town of Medford to Prevent the Pollution of the Mystic River by Discharge of Sewage Therein.

AFTER the introduction of Spot pond water into Medford, the subject of sewerage became uppermost in the minds of our citizens. In March, 1871, the subject was referred to the selectmen, and they were authorized to employ an experienced engineer to plan a thorough system of sewerage throughout the whole town, and to make a survey and outline map showing the principal drains and trunk conduits. In accordance with this vote the selectmen employed Mr. Clemens Herschel, who made a study of the problem, with plans and map as instructed. Mr. Herschel's report was submitted to the town at the November meeting in 1872, and in June, 1873, the selectmen were instructed to report a system for the apportionment of cost upon abuttors and upon the town, action upon which was indefinitely postponed when report was submitted to the town. This latter action was taken because our citizens had become convinced that the enterprise was too costly for the town to undertake single-handed, inasmuch as it was strongly opposed to the discharge of sewage into the Mystic river. In February, 1874, the board of health reported to the town as follows, viz.:

We desire to call the attention of the town to the fact that the City of Cambridge is using the waters of Alewife brook, one of the tributaries of Mystic river, as a receptacle for a portion of its sewage, and that the Engineers appointed by the City of Boston to examine into the water supply of the city have suggested the drainage of the towns of Woburn and Winchester into the river,

that a portion of the sewage of Charlestown now finds its way into the Mystic river, and that the towns of Malden and Everett may one day use the river for a similar purpose, and we therefore urge upon the town the importance of resisting by every means in its power any attempt on the part of the neighboring cities and towns to contaminate the water of the river by making it a receptacle for sewage matter.

This was referred to the selectmen, with instructions as suggested by the report. These were acted upon none too soon; for the city of Cambridge had already petitioned the General Court for an act authorizing the use of Alewife brook as a sewer and for liberty to erect tide-gates to prevent the incoming tide from backing up the sewage into Fresh pond, its water supply. At a hearing before the Legislative Committee of Water Supply and Drainage, to whom the petition was referred, the selectmen opposed the granting of the petition upon the ground that such use would contaminate the water of the river, to the prejudice of the health of the citizens of Medford. Counsel for Cambridge stated to the committee that he had not anticipated any opposition to the petition, and invited them to view the premises and examine the conditions therein. The committee accepted the invitation, and joined by the Medford committee, made investigation. It concluded that the subject demanded favorable action, but agreed to insert a section in the bill to safeguard the interests of the town of Medford, viz., Section 2 of Chapter 193 of the Acts of 1874. The Broadway tide-gates were erected near the Broadway bridge over Alewife brook. They were constructed by the city of Cambridge (by an agreement with the town of Arlington) in 1875, and were in use up to the time of the completion of the Metropolitan sewer in 1897.

The town of Medford never experienced any discomfort from the sewage from Alewife brook. All the insoluble portions were deposited in the tortuous channel of the brook and they created a nuisance therein. That, together with the unsanitary conditions prevailing in part of the cities of Cambridge and Somerville and the

towns of Arlington and Belmont, was the principal cause of the erection of the Cradock dam in Medford center.

In the year 1861 the city of Charlestown obtained an act of the General Court authorizing it to take the upper Mystic pond as a water supply, and when that city was annexed to the city of Boston, the pond became a part of Boston's water supply. For many years both before and after Boston assumed control of the pond, many complaints were made in regard to the impurity of the water. Situated upon the Aberjona river and its tributaries were many tanneries and other works whose drainage found its way into that river and thence into the pond. This condition of things became so unbearable that some action had to be taken to remedy the evil, or else abandon the pond as a water supply.

In the year 1875 the mayor of Boston petitioned the General Court for an act authorizing that city to construct a sewer to prevent such drainage from entering its water supply. In this petition the mayor was joined by the selectmen of Woburn and Medford. The selectmen of Winchester declined to take any action. The town of Medford voted to instruct the selectmen to employ counsel and oppose the turning of any sewage into Mystic river within the limits of the town and to favor a system of sewerage being laid through the town, to discharge at Chelsea (now Revere) beach. At the hearing it was found that neither the city of Boston nor the town of Woburn had any idea of joining in the construction of such a sewer.

Boston presented a plan to discharge the sewage into Mystic river at or near Boston avenue bridge, and to erect a dam with tide-gates across the river just above Alewife brook, so as to form a reservoir for the scouring of the river at low water. This plan, so prejudicial to Medford's interests, was so strenuously opposed by the Medford committee that the Boston officials presented an alternate plan to discharge into the lower Mystic pond. This new plan was also opposed by the Medford

committee, for it was certain that in a short time a nuisance would be created in the pond;* but finding that it must choose between the two plans, it chose what it considered the lesser evil — to discharge into the pond, the view of the Legislative committee being that the public health of Charlestown and other places, users of the water, far outbalanced the fears of Medford in regard to the creating of a nuisance in Mystic river. A bill was reported, authorizing the city of Boston to construct a sewer to discharge into the lower pond, with a section designed to protect the interest of the towns of Arlington and Medford.

CHAPTER 202, OF THE ACTS OF 1875.

ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY OF BOSTON TO CONSTRUCT A SEWER IN THE MYSTIC VALLEY

Section 1. The City of Boston is hereby authorized for the purpose of protecting the purity and remedying the pollution of water supplied from Mystic Pond, so called, by virtue of Acts of 1861 and acts additional and of amendment thereof, to construct for that purpose a main sewer . . . and branches . . . on the easterly side of the ponds and streams which discharge into them. Commencing in the town of Woburn . . . through Winchester into the town of Medford and emptying into the lower Mystic pond at some convenient point near the upper end thereof said city is authorized to extend or divert into said sewer any streams or water-courses, whether natural or artificial, flowing directly or indirectly into Mystic Pond or its headwaters, or into any stream or pond connecting with or discharging into said Mystic Pond, which contains any source of pollution.

The other sections of the act are of no interest to this paper, except Section 12, which is as follows, viz.:

This Act shall not be construed to grant an interminable right to discharge sewage into Mystic lower Pond, but the Legislature may, from time to time, by law, regulate and determine the disposition to be made of such sewage for the purpose of protecting the public health, and especially that of the inhabitants of Arlington

*There are two ponds with originally a natural dam or "partings" between them; the tide flowed into the *lower* pond, the upper pond being at a higher level was not affected by the tide. It was at this "partings" that the water works dam was built. (See REGISTER, Vol. XX, p. 20.)

and Medford, and preventing the existence of a nuisance, anything to the contrary in this act notwithstanding.

The sewer was constructed and was in use until the winter of 1880–81 before any particular discomfort from its use was sustained by the inhabitants of Medford; but one morning the whole town (especially the westerly part thereof) was aroused by a stench that almost took away one's breath. The officials of the town, who were watching the result of such a discharge of sewage matter into the pond, suspected at once the cause of the trouble and proceeded to investigate. On arriving at the outlet of the pond, they found a filthy stream of water flowing from the pond that emitted an intolerable stench. Proceeding down stream, they found fish dead and dying on the river banks, where they had been left by the ebb tide. The eels, more fortunate (?), were able to crawl out of the water and thus escape the filth, only to fall into the baskets of some enterprising fishermen who were gathering them in. The houses along the bank of the river were discolored by the gases that arose from the filthy water. One house in particular was noted, that of one of our citizens of German birth. His account of the situation was quite amusing; he said, "My little boy went out this morning and soon came running back into the house crying out, 'mein Gott, fader, just come out and look at our house.'" The house, of immaculate whiteness the night before, was now of a dirty, dingy color. After viewing the effect of the discharge of the filthy water into the river, they proceeded to investigate the cause of the sudden appearance of the nuisance. They found the pond covered by a thick coating of ice, which prevented the aeration of the water. This, accompanied by an extreme high course of the tide, which backed up the salt water into the pond, caused the ebb tide to carry with it a large amount of filthy water into the river.

The board of health endeavored to remedy the trouble by breaking up the ice with dynamite, but it afforded

little or no relief, as the mischief had already been done. A succession of high tides flowing into the pond, with the scouring effect of the ebb, soon tended to make the situation more tolerable.

The mayor of Boston and its water board were notified of the trouble, and accompanied by the Medford officials, visited the pond. They first made an examination of the water at the outlet of the pond. While they were so engaged, some Medford citizens were assembled near Wear bridge, together with some of the employees of the Boston Water Board, and there was some discussion in regard to Boston's responsibility for the situation. One of the latter said, "And what does *your little town* expect to do with the *great city* of Boston?" A most unfortunate remark for Boston's interests, for the Medford people quoted the remark on every possible occasion when the subject was before the General Court. From the outlet of the pond the company proceeded to its upper end, where the sewer pipe entered the pond. An examination there left no doubt in the mind of any as to the *cause* of the nuisance. The selectmen of Medford immediately petitioned the General Court for the remedy that Section 12 of the Act of 1875 was intended to afford. The petition was referred to the Committee on Water Supply and Drainage, and the city of Boston, through its trained attorneys, opposed all efforts to compel that city to abate the nuisance. The following bill was reported and was fought in both branches of the Legislature by Boston's representatives until its final passage:

SECTION 1 OF CHAPTER 303, OF THE ACTS OF 1881.

The City of Boston is hereby directed to cease emptying sewage, or waters or substances containing polluting matter or properties, into Mystic Lower Pond, through its sewer constructed under Chapter 202 of the Acts of 1875, or otherwise; and is hereby also directed to take up and remove so much of said sewer as extends into said pond; and also that part thereof, between said pond and a point on a line of said sewer, at least two hundred feet from said pond, within three months from the passage of this Act; and there-

after no person or corporation (municipal or other) shall discharge or divert into said pond, any sewage or offensive matter, waters or substances containing such properties or of such quality, as shall of themselves, or in connection with other matter, create a nuisance in Mystic Lower Pond, or endanger public health; but nothing herein shall be construed to prohibit the City of Boston's discharging such water as shall be collected in its said sewer into Mystic Lower Pond, after said City shall have purified, cleansed and freed the said waters from all offensive, contaminating, noxious and polluting properties, and substances, so that the waters shall not of themselves or in connection with other matter, create a nuisance therein or endanger the public health: *provided* that such waters so purified shall flow for a distance of at least two hundred feet immediately before their entrance into said pond, in an open drain, over a gravelly or sandy bottom.

SECTION 2.

The City of Boston shall cause said pond to be cleaned of such impurities prejudicial to the public health, as in the judgment of the State Board of Health Lunacy and Charity, it shall have caused . . . and should the said Board deem the same to be necessary and so decide, the City of Boston may erect a dam at the outlet of the Mystic Lower Pond, and exclude the tide water from said pond, and may raise the height of the water in said pond and may take land therefor.

Section three provided for the taking of land in Woburn and Winchester. Directly after the passage of this act, the chairman of the state board of health visited the pond to view the premises in order to obtain information in regard to the condition of matters that were referred to the board by section two of the act. He was accompanied by the Boston water board and the selectmen of Medford. After viewing the condition of things at the upper end of the pond, the company proceeded to the lower end. On the way down along the shore of the pond, the chairman of the state board, who was in company with one of the selectmen of Medford, asked what was Medford's position in regard to section two of the act, and was told that so far as the cleansing of the pond was concerned, it was deemed impossible to accomplish much in that direction, but *Medford strongly protested against turning the pond into a cesspool*, and preferred to

allow the tide to flow in and out, deeming that to be sufficient if the city of Boston *carried out in good faith* the provision of the act in regard to the purification of the sewage matter. The chairman agreed such to be a sensible view of the subject, and we heard no more in regard to section two of the act.

While the act was before the committee an effort was made by some of Winchester's citizens advocating the establishment of the filter bed in Medford's territory, but the committee agreed that as no part of the sewage came from Medford that the filter beds should *not* be located there, and they were located beside the railroad just beyond the town line in Winchester, and set in operation after a time.

The employees of the city of Boston who had charge of the operation of these filter beds allowed a considerable amount of the sewage matter to flow into the pond without being purified. At a hearing before a legislative committee, the selectmen having complained were requested to furnish a sample of what was claimed to be unpurified sewage, to be presented to the committee at a subsequent meeting. Accordingly a sample was taken from the mouth of the sewer *where it fell into the "open ditch."* As several days elapsed before the committee met again, the sample had a good chance to ripen before its presentation. An examination of the same proved without any question that it had *never passed through the filter beds.*

Another instance of the neglect to purify the sewage was shown at a visit of the mayor and city engineer of Boston with the selectmen of Medford. While viewing the situation at the lower end of the upper pond the *employees* of the water board *denied* that any sewage was allowed to enter the pond without passing through the filter beds, saying that "engines pumping sewage into the filter beds were running night and day." When it was proposed to visit the filter beds at the upper end of the pond, these employees took a team and drove rapidly

away toward the pumping station. Suspecting that they were going to start up the pumping engine, some of Medford's people started in pursuit and arrived at the station before the engine could be started up.

After the arrival of the party, which had *walked* to the pumping station, the mayor was informed of the action of the employees. He was asked if it was his intent that *all* the sewage should be passed through the filter beds, and he answered "yes." Then said one of the selectmen of Medford, "Stop up the sewer so that no unpurified sewage will pass into the pond, and thus *compel* all the sewage to be pumped into the filter beds." Turning to the city engineer, the mayor said, "How would that do, Mr.——?" "It would not do at all," was the answer. The mayor made no reply.

The city of Boston never did, and never intended to purify all the sewage before discharging it into the pond. The condition of matters was never satisfactory to Medford people until the completion of the Metropolitan system of sewerage. After the Metropolitan Water Board was established, Mystic pond was abandoned as a water supply.

JOHN H. HOOPER.

MEDFORD'S FIRST GRISTMILL

Without doubt Medford people were served by the Broughton "corne-mill" across the river above "Menotomie brooke," but that was not in Medford territory. If the statement of our historian is correct, the Wade mill on Marble brook was the first. He says of it, "This was used for grinding grain and sawing timber." But no mention of it as a gristmill is found in the settlement of the Wade estate, which speaks of "saw-mill pond" and "the saw mill." (This in 1689.) Writing in 1855, he also said of another:

> There was a mill a short distance below Wear bridge, but who built it, or how long it stood, we have not been able to discover. The place is yet occupied.

He quoted from Medford records the favorable action of the town about gristmills in *two* places, and added of the first:

> This was not successful, nor was the following, . . .

We ask, was Mr. Brooks correct in these statements? and reply that he was regarding "one just below Wear bridge," and wish he had told more of the occupation of '55. On what he based his statement "not successful," we must remain ignorant. To our certain knowledge all vestige of any such structure had vanished prior to 1870. Possibly one of those incendiary fires so common in the sixties may have removed it.

In the REGISTER, Vol. XVII, pp. 15 and 42, are articles relative to this matter, in which interest is revived by examination of original documents in the Massachusetts Archives, of which the following is copy:

To the Hon^{ble} Lt. Governer & Council & Representatives in Gen^{l} Court Afsembled

The Humble petition of the Inhabitants of the Towne of Medford Showeth

That Whereas Your Petition^{ers} have hitherunto been neceſsitated for want of a Grist mill within the s^{d} Towne to carry their Corne to be ground as far as Charlestowne or Watertowne and sometimes to Boston and Noddles Island, Whereby many times before they can get their meal home, it costs them as much as the Corne was worth. And Whereas there is a very Suitable place upon the River A little above Mistick Bridge where A Mill may be Erected to the Eas^{g} of your Petition^{ers} And Advantage And Convenience of places Adjacent And without damage to the Passage of Boats Timber Rafts &^{c}

Wherefore yo^{r} most humble Petition^{ers} Pray this Hon^{ble} Court to to grant them the Privilege of Setting up A Mill on the River in the Place Aforef^{d} And that an Act may be Accordingly made Authorizing and Impowering them so to do and Your Petition^{ers} shall as in duty bound forever pray &^{c}

Medford May 30 1698.

In the name of & by the order of the selectmen
Stephen Willis Towne Clerk

By examination of Medford records we find Mr. Brooks' quotation practically correct, under date of May 30, 1698.

At a meeting of the frehders and other inhabitents of Medford legally convened put to vote whether the Inhabitents of Medford will petition the Generall Court for liberty to build a gristmill on the River near & above Mistick bridge

voted in the affirmative

It appears that no time was lost in the presentation of Medford's petition (which was written in another hand than that of the town clerk, Stephen Willis, who wrote the line of certification preceding his signature), as it is endorsed "June 3d 1698. Read in the House of Representatives and Commited." It is somewhat interesting to follow this petition in its course through the regular routine. Another document also accompanies it, in which "much can be read between the lines."

Boston June 8 1698

Some Queryes with Refference to a Petition presented to the Great and Genl Afsembly by the Selectmen of Medford for Liberty of Erecting a corn mill on Miftick River near the Bridg, wch Petition is Sayd to be already granted by the House of Representatives

1 Whether the granting said Petition will not prove of considerable damage to the Proprietors of the woodlands, lieing in that part of the Country, in having such an Obstruction put to about two miles of the Navigable part of sd River which the Setting down of sd Mill muft needs be notwithstanding the methodes by them proposed for letting boats to pafs

2 Whether the free pafsage of the fish in sd River (wch hath been a great beneffit to the Inhabitants) will not be thereby incommoded

3 Whether the capacity wch sd River lies under of being made navigable for severall miles further than now it is (wch might be improved to considerable advantage) will not be thereby hindered.

4 Whether it be consistent with Equity to cut off the capacity of a mill from the present proprietor of the place of the old mill where the respective owners have served that part of the country with their Estates in a Mill where they Improved sd streem for about thirty or forty years together

unto wch queryes sundry arguments might be offered if time were given and leave thereto allowed

The wch is offered to consideration

per Joseph Prout.

There is still another, much smaller in size and closely written, in which Mr. Prout's "queryes" are answered

and disposed of. After the above petition was folded it was endorsed on the back

In Council June 28, 1698. Respited until the next Session

The General Court then, and for many years, met in two sessions each year, and the Council's action deferred action and gave time for the consideration of Mr. Prout's side of the matter.

At the next session favorable action was taken as follows:

Dec 26. 1698 Resolved That the petitioners be allowed what they herein pray for provided that they agree with the parties that own the land on either side the s^{d} River where the Mill is to stand and that they do not hinder the passage of Boats Timber Rafts &^{c} and that it doth not interfere with any former Grant or right to ye s^{d} stream

Sent up for concurrence Natha^{l} Byfield Speaker.

The reader will do well to consider that in 1698 Medford was, though seventy years from its first settlement, but an insignificant place, and had grown but little. Only two bridges gave passage across the river in its entire length, but they were sufficient for all needs. With a "cornemill" on the Menotomy side, what was the need of another a quarter mile up stream on the Medford side of the river? And why was it a matter of town or public action, instead of private enterprise as were those of Broughton and Wade. Twenty-three years before, a verdict had been given against the former in favor of Symmes, whose meadows *above* Mistick ponds were flooded. Yet Prout, who was then (in 1698) proprietor, declared "thirty or forty years" of use, which covered nearly the time since Broughton began.

We find no evidence that Broughton sought legislative action for "liberty to build a gristmill," and perhaps his experience led to Medford's as above stated, in order to be safe from the consequences of resultant damage.

A comparison of the vote in the Medford record with the petition in the Archives is interesting: "Near and

above Mistick bridge," says the former; "A very suitable place . . . a little above Mistick bridge," the latter.

There can be no question of its being *above*, or upstream from the bridge; but to our present sight, a mile and a half does not seem "near," or "a little above." In view of this we are led to ask, What did the term "Mistick bridge" mean in this particular case? The bridge below the ford we know had been called at first Mistick bridge, but later had gotten the name of "Great bridge." This suggests another query, Why Great bridge, if it was the only bridge across the Mystic? Might not the Cradock, or Great bridge, have acquired such name in comparison with the second bridge at the Broughton mill? If so, that might have been appropriately called Mistick bridge, and the "suitable place where a mill may be erected" would lie a little above it, and tally exactly with Mr. Brooks' "short distance below Wear bridge" (or rather the location of Wear bridge), to which travel was diverted ten years after the petition for this mill was made.

We have shown that favorable action was taken and "liberty to build a grist mill" given. Was it built, and just where was the suitable place? In reply we say yes, it was, and at about midway between present Harvard and Fairfield avenues, West Medford, and submit in evidence our frontispiece, which is a reproduction of our photograph taken on July 15, 1911.

Referring to Vol. XVII, p. 15 (where a description and occasion of discovery is related), we are confident that the old oak frame, brought to light in 1911, was none other than that of Medford's first gristmill, erected soon after 1698.

The map or plan of Charlestown "Linefeilde" (across the river), one of the oldest known, shows two islands near the Medford side at this spot, which certainly was "a suitable place." In 1865 the United States engineers made an elaborate survey of the entire river and Mystic lower pond, with purpose of making the latter a fresh

water basin for the use of the navy. That plan (a copy of which is at the State House), shows an island in line with the Medford side, with the river curving inland around it. We think that this carefully made map, on which the various depths of water are given, showing an island at the very place where the old frame was found, to be excellent testimony as to "suitable place," and the remains unearthed, a refutation of its being unsuccessful. Its unearthing was a rare instance of the lost handiwork of Medford men of two hundred years agone coming to view. It was a serious matter for the housewife to get out of meal (i. e. breakfast food) in 1698, and it was a long journey to Noddle's island gristmill. Neither was there the little store around the corner, to which Tommy could be sent for shredded wheat and a bottle of milk in such emergency. There were but few people in Medford then, even after sixty years, but with meal costing them double price, a gristmill near home was a prime necessity. To our modern ideas and experiences, this old Medford gristmill would be insignificant and its output crude, but at that time it must have been a decided improvement and a waymark of progress. It served its purpose, disappeared, and was utterly lost and forgotten until after two centuries, when in the march of improvement its remains were exhumed and aroused inquiry; now, nine years later, those original papers in the case are "documentary evidence."

LOCAL CHANGES IN MEDFORD.

Since the electrification of street railroads, moving of buildings has become difficult, but before that time such changes were not uncommon. We have thought that an account of such as have occurred within our knowledge of fifty years might not be wholly devoid of interest; though such *might* possibly prove unacceptable to present occupants. We remember a case where a citizen (now long gone) was boasting of "*my fine residence*" and was

taken down a little by another's saying, "Why, yes, we thought it pretty good when it was father's carpenter-shop down at our place."

The present writing is suggested by examination of the United States engineers' plan referred to in a previous article about a gristmill, and on which is clearly shown the Wood mill, over which there was such a stir in '68–'70.

The "Fuller plan" of the "Smith estate" at West Medford (the tract lying between High street, the railroad and the river), plotted on the same scale, shows a similar inward curve, but not the former's island. A plan (by Hovey), in 1870, of a portion of the above, lying beside the river, shows a somewhat lesser curve with no island, and another street nearer the river. This is set down as "Beach street." Facing this street, upon lots extending backward to the Mystic, seven dwelling-houses were erected prior to 1875. One was destroyed by fire, another torn down, and five removed to other sites, as under conditions then existing they proved undesirable habitations. With the introduction of sewerage and the building of the Cradock dam the adverse condition ceased.

Beach street disappeared in the Metropolitan reservation, but after some work was done on the new parkway on the Medford side, plans were changed and it was built on the Arlington side nearly the entire length of the "linefeilde," obliterating the last vestige of the old Broughton mill-site, the old Dunster house, changing the course of Menotomy river, passing through the Somerville *appendix* and only entering Medford at Auburn street. By the "taking" of this riverside by the Metropolitan Park Commission came later the sale of several houses, and their removal, but prior to that three others, built in 1873 and 1875, were removed for similar cause as those on Beach street. One even took a journey, in 1877, over the Usher bridge into Arlington, via Broadway to Curtis street (the Somerville continuation of

Medford's Winthrop) where it now stands, near the western corner of the reservoir, in West Somerville. It was a notable incident, for in its journey it was in *three* municipalities, and only lacked a few rods of being in Medford again. But before this triple exodus, owing to the extension of Brooks street (from Irving to High) the barn of Samuel Teele, Sr., was moved to Arlington street, as an adjunct to one of those houses. When that house migrated to the *old* barn site, the barn followed it, but stopped at Mr. Usher's, and was later destroyed by fire, a regretable circumstance, as in it were destroyed some of Mr. Usher's old *Medford Journals*, of which no file is known to have been preserved. Were that barn *now* standing it might be adapted to dwelling purposes and relieve the housing situation now so acute. A list of the shops, barns and factories in Medford so adapted would be an extensive and interesting one. But we doubt the adaptability of the modern garage to such use when people become tired of being on wheels and gas and rubber prices become prohibitive.

AFTER FIFTY-SEVEN YEARS

In previous issues (Vol. XX, Nos. 1 and 2) the REGISTER has told, in some detail, of the construction by Charlestown (ere its annexation to Boston), of its waterworks within the bounds of Medford and Somerville. It is now twenty years since the abandonment of Mystic lake as a water supply, but the tall, graceful chimney of the pumping station, though disused, had remained a noticeable object. A few years ago the older boilers and pumping engines were scrapped and the roof of the coal bunker removed, revealing to the few visitors its great size. The top of the chimney, through lack of care consequent upon disuse, had become disintegrated and dangerous. Its removal was decided on, and work begun to that end. By removal of bricks on a portion of the easterly side, a fissure was made across it near its base,

and the whole mass fell over into the vacant coal bunker at about 2.30 P.M. on Wednesday, September 1 (1920). Its fall attracted no widespread attention, as by its falling into the walled excavation the noise of its impact was largely smothered, or little diffused.

It was built upon a granite base fifteen feet square. A pedestal of twenty feet was paneled with two Roman arches in each side, and capped with brown stone. Each side of the tapering shaft was reinforced with two diagonal buttresses, and the top was elaborately designed and ornamented with quatrefoils of brown stone. It rose to a height of one hundred and five feet and was first in use on November 4, 1864.

On September 15 (1920), while removing the debris at the base of the shaft, the workmen came upon a copper box at about fifteen inches from either face at the easterly corner. There was no stone, or indication of its presence. It was simply embedded in the regular brickwork and was 4x4x9 inches in size, and contained four Boston (morning) papers (of October 1, 1863), three Charlestown papers (weekly) one New York daily, *Harper's Weekly*, and a New York comic weekly, *The Phunny Phellow*. Noticeable in the two latter are the cartoons relating to the French occupation of Mexico, and the "rebel rams" built in England, the time being that of the Civil War. The Charlestown directory and city reports of the previous year, with the report on the introduction of water, including a complete map of the system, and an envelope containing a silver half-dollar of 1807, a copper half-cent of 1807, a copper cent, and another (copper) coin so flattened as to defy identification, and two bronze (Indian) cents of 1863, made up the contents, which we were afforded the privilege of examining.

We found no reference to the waterworks in the Boston dailies, and have discovered (as yet) no intimation of any ceremonies attendant upon the depositing of the box, which was probably on October 1 or 2 of 1863.

The *Charlestown Enterprise* and *Bunker Hill Aurora*

of next previous date were accompanied by the *Enterprise* of Saturday, October 4, 1862, containing an interesting column regarding the exercises of "breaking ground" on the preceding Saturday* "for the reservoir on Walnut hill." By the courtesy of Superintendent Killam we are enabled to present the Historical Society with a type-written copy of the same.

The pumping station, which since 1900 has been used only for storage and recently in the war work of the Radio company, is to be utilized as a workshop and garage by the Metropolitan Commission.

Formerly it was a place of interest to visitors. Mr. Bernard Born, who came from New York to set up the first pumping engines, remained in charge during its entire use as such, and saw it thrice enlarged. His aquarium was always a source of interest to the youngsters, and his alligators also, until grown somewhat they were removed to other quarters. With its closing, the bridge across the river to Jerome street, not being a public one, was removed, leaving no passage between Canal and Usher bridges at Boston and Harvard avenues.

To the casual observer, this building and chimney appeared to be in Medford, but was, however, in Somerville, formerly Charlestown. This was because some owners of river lots in the old Charlestown cow-pasture were not transferred to Medford in the change of 1754. After one hundred and sixty-six years of the crooked boundary line, it should be adjusted and dwellers therein orientated.

AN OLD HISTORIAN'S VIEW

In 1839 a book was published at Worcester, whose title was "Historical Collections." Its author was John Warner Barber. It contained a colored map of Massachusetts, a condensed history of the state, also devoted specially a page to each county, and covered the "his-

*See REGISTER, Vol. XX, p. 30, article by J. H. Hooper.

tories and antiquities" of the three hundred and sixteen towns in a greater or less degree. It was a substantial volume of six hundred and twenty-five pages, illustrated by two hundred wood engravings. But little more than one page and one illustration was devoted to Medford, whose population was given as 2,075. Its then northern neighbor, Woburn, with 2,643 inhabitants, had two pages and two excellent views given it. Eleven lines sufficed for Stoneham, which had but 932 people in its "village of about forty dwelling houses." Medford's western neighbor, then West Cambridge, had 1,308 of population, and was noted in eighteen lines. Charlestown, which then extended to West Cambridge, with 10,101 people, was of course given prominence by the historian. Malden had 2,303, and its story was told in two pages, including one illustration.

The Historical Society has in its library a copy of Mr. Barber's work which is well worth examination. It was given by Mr. George D. Cummings, and was that of his father, the late Charles Cummings, long principal of Medford's high school. At the time of his donation, the younger Mr. Cummings remarked (of the view), "How does that street look to you?" Mr. Barber said in his "Preface"

> The drawings for the numerous engravings were, with few exceptions, taken on the spot by the author,

and trusted that any critics would look from his point of view. He certainly did "some job" in preparing this work, and must have traversed the state quite thoroughly to have sketched the two hundred views.

Recently the "wood block engravings" made from his sketches, and from which his illustrations were printed in 1839, have come into the possession of the *Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities.* By its courtesy, we present one on the REGISTER's frontispiece, and bespeak for it a careful observation.

Mr. Barber named none of the features of this "South-

ern view of Medford," as he did in many others, but the reader will recognize its foreground as the present Moore square. The third meeting-house, at the extreme left, was torn down in 1839, the year of Mr. Barber's publication, and stood on the site of present Unitarian church. The second meeting-house (site of Page & Curtin's store) and the Andrew Hall house (now standing) are in the center, backed by Pasture hill, on the slope of which is the Hall summer-house. Next in prominence is the town hall, the great sycamores across the street from it, and the old Dr. Tufts house. Stretching backward is a veritable forest — Forest street — and in the extreme right the Universalist meeting-house. The river and a schooner with sails set is also in evidence, but we look in vain for the branch canal which crossed the vacant space in the left lower corner of this view. The four-horse team is significant; but the artist should have made the turn in the fence behind the big wagon, and shown Main street extending to the town hall instead of to the left of the old meeting-house, the present Winthrop square.

But of course, allowance must be made for inaccuracies in sketching; and we do well to remember that it was only in 1839 that Daguerre's invention became known. It is a long stride from the wood cut to the half-tone.

Mr. Barber mentioned four industries of Medford: Ship-building, bricks, hats and linseed oil, but nothing whatever of a certain other noted product. On his title page he styled his work "a general collection of interesting facts, traditions, biographical sketches, anecdotes, etc., with geographical descriptions." It certainly was, but in it we look in vain for any allusion to any "Cradock house." Absence of such (in view of the above title page) is good evidence that the widely circulated myth had not then been fabricated.

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HISTORICAL REGISTER

December, 1920

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FORM OF BEQUEST.

I give and bequeath to the Medford Historical Society, in the city of Medford, Mass., the sum of _____ Dollars for the general use and purposes of said Society.

(Signed) _____

J. C. MILLER, JR., PRINTER, MEDFORD.

Broughton Mill-Site
As seen from Medford.

Broughton Mill-Site
(Medford in background).

The Dunster House
Demolished, 1907.

New Menotomy River and Bridge
Looking North.

Temporary Dam, 1908
Mill-site at left.

The Medford Historical Register.

VOL. XXIII. DECEMBER, 1920. No. 4.

MEDFORD, CONDITA, 1628.

BY way of contrast to the recent launching on the Mystic, let us turn backward the pages of authentic history to a date almost three centuries ago and read it as quoted by our local historian in 1855: —

> July 4, 1631. The governor built a bark *at* Mistick which was launched this day and called '*The Blessing of the Bay.*'

and again,

> Aug. 9. The governor's bark being of thirty tons went to sea.

The historian says, "It cost one hundred and forty-five pounds," and quotes the owner (Governor Winthrop) as saying, five years later, "I will sell her for one hundred and sixty pounds." It would be interesting to follow, were it possible, the career of this early product of Mystic river ship building, and to know if the governor realized his ten plus per cent profit. We trust that he did, but even so we cannot style him a "profiteer." Now note the following words of our historian, which *preceded* the quotations above noted which he evidently made in their support:

> To this heroic and Christian adventurer belongs the honor of building the first vessel whose keel was laid in this part of the Western World; and that vessel was built on the bank of Mystic River, and probably not far from the governor's house at "Ten Hills." There is a tradition that it was built on the north shore of the river, and therefore in the limits of Medford.

Just what "this part of the Western World" means is open to query, but it is a known fact that a vessel was built by the Popham colonists in Maine at an earlier

date. This he seems to have been unaware of, or overlooked, and while stating that the *Blessing* was built near the governor's house at Ten Hills, mentions a tradition about the north side of the river, and immediately says, "the record concerning it is as follows: 'The governor built a bark *at* Mistick which was launched this day and called *The Blessing of the Bay*.'"

We do not deny but that there was a tradition current relative to early ship building on the north side of the river. In fact, we think there may have been, and that Mr. Brooks, who wrote as above in 1855, at the age of sixty, had it from his forbears, who were men of mature age, when Thatcher Magoun established his shipyard on the "north side of the Mistick," and when later other ship-builders found the remains of old ways and timbers farther down beside the river.

So Mr. Brooks transfers Winthrop's ship-building from Charlestown to Medford, by saying, "the record concerning it is as follows," and quotes: "July 4, 1631. The governor's bark, etc., etc." Now as we look at it, the governor's bark (the *Blessing*) was built just where the governor wrote that it was, at "Mistick," the "Ten Hills Farm" in Charlestown (present Somerville), and not in Medford at all. Neither had Governor Winthrop any possessions whatever in the Medford of that day, and while as governor he had governmental oversight and interest in all parts of the little early colony, we know of only twice (by record) of his bodily presence in the then Medford. Not to detract a particle from his worth or fame, we think that much that has been said about his paternalism of Medford is largely overdrawn, and confessing to our own share in the same are willing to be forgiven.

Now, while tradition has been said to be an unsafe guide, it may be well to look into this a little. Our historian was an enthusiast in anything relating to our history, as witness his story of the so-called Cradock house, the Baldwin apple, the Touro-Lafayette episode,

and the "old black schooner" (a smuggler) on the Mystic, so hastily unloaded.

But what about the tradition of the governor's bark? for traditions have some value after all. Perhaps it can be supported and made less shadowy by authentic record. Let us see. There is, in the archives of our State House, carefully preserved, a letter from, and in the handwriting of, another "Governor," the presiding functionary of the London Company chartered by King Charles I, who made that company a grant of land in New England in width from three miles north of the Merrimack river to three miles south of the Charles river and westward to the South sea in which to do business. The company had sent over a colony which settled at Nahumkeeke, i.e. Salem, with a few at Cape Ann, i.e. Gloucester, but who left there and settled at Mattapan (present Dorchester) and a few at Nantasket. All these were under the supervision of a local governor, John Endicott.

There had some from Salem found their way across country (or otherwise) to the Mistick valley, and had here settled in the interests of that presiding functionary who was styled "governour," and whose name was Matthew Cradock. We have the evidence of that in the testimony of the Spragues, who, coming from Salem in 1629, found them here settled and employed. Now let us return to the letter of Cradock. Endicott had written a letter to him from Salem, dated September 13, 1628. It took just five months for it to reach Cradock, who three days later, February 16, 1628–9, replied to it, writing the letter we have mentioned, and which we have personally seen and examined. The letter acquainted Endicott of the enlargement of the company (since his departure from England), of the purchase of another ship, of the hiring of two more (and possibly another), in which were to be sent about three hundred colonists, one hundred head of cattle and various supplies for the reinforcement of the colony of which Endicott was in charge.

Various directions were given in that letter, among them one is significant and is especially interesting. It directed that after reaching these shores, these

three vessels may go to the banck with 29 waigh of salt . . . lynes, hookes, knives, bootes and barvells necessary for ffishinge

It was further directed that if they were not expected to return (to the colony),

that then you send our barke that is already built in the colony to bring back our fishermen and such provision of salt if any remainder bee and also of hookes lynes &c of use to you on all occasions

Take especial note of this: the company (through its chief, Cradock) writes of a *bark already here built.* For Cradock to have known of it (no cable or wirless or airships in those days) its construction must have been an accomplished fact when Endicott wrote to Cradock in September of 1628. The question naturally arises, where was "our bark built in the colony"? and another, was it the "governor's bark"? Note that the time of writing, February 16, 1628–9, which was (the twelfth month of 1628) before Winthrop's election as his successor and before Winthrop's departure for New England. We have no account of any ship-building at Salem, none at Dorchester or Nantasket at that early time, and ask, where then but at Medford where the Spragues found Cradock's men established? There was no lack of timber for their use, and as to metal work and rigging the earliest record of the company (now extant) shows provision for iron, steel, copper and sailcloth. It was an organized business corporation of men of means who began the Bay colony, and sent their employees across the sea equipped for service, and who followed their first adventure with more and better provision and personnel, including the governor with the king's charter on which to erect a government.

Therefore the tradition of a governor's bark, not Winthrop's but Cradock's, "on the north side of the river, and therefore in the limits of Medford," in the light of

Cradock's reference takes on new interest. Especially is this so when we refer to the story of Wood in his *New England Prospect*, of the *Rebecca*, sixty tons, and one of one hundred tons the next year, built here by Cradock's men.

What name that earlier "governor's bark," the "our barke already built in the colony" bore, we shall probably never know. Its tonnage may have equalled or exceeded that of Winthrop's fancifully named one of thirty tons, and compared favorably with the *Talbot* of forty-six and one-half tons, which brought the colonists of Salem under Endicott across the stormy Atlantic. It certainly antedated the *Blessing of the Bay* by two years, and its mention by Cradock (still existing in his own hand) points to a settlement of Medford in 1628.

LAUNCHING OF THE TREMONT.

As a matter of local history the REGISTER reprints the following from the morning edition of the *Boston Globe* of Wednesday, December 1, 1920:

Launched at practically the same spot at which the first vessel ever built in Massachusetts was launched, nearly 300 years ago, the four-masted schooner Tremont, the second vessel ever built in Somerville, took her initial dip into the waters of the Mystic yesterday afternoon at 3.11 from the Mystic River Ship Company yards, near Wellington Bridge.

Five thousand people assembled to watch the schooner slide gracefully into the water, where she was met by two tug-boats, which towed her to Barrett wharf in East Boston. A thousand children from the schools of Somerville and Medford, released from their classes early to attend the launching, set up a great cheer as the vessel took the water.

Miss Annie Ferrullo, 17-year old daughter of Generose Ferrullo, one of the contractors, of Medford Hillside, broke a bottle of Italian wine over the bow and christened the schooner "Tremont." The vessel is named after the Tremont Trust Company. The 1500-ton Tremont is valued at $200,000.

As the date of the above lacks but four days of being forty-seven years from the launching of the last Medford

ship (the *Pilgrim*, by Captain J. T. Foster. See REGISTER, Vol. XVI, p. 71), it is evident that the sight must have been a novel one and of interest to Somerville and Medford people. To the comparatively few of the latter who recall memories and legends of the old busy days along the Mystic, and to those who have watched, from the car windows in passing, the slow progress of its building it was especially so. From the *Boston Post* of October 22, we quote:

> The history of the new vessel notes many obstacles placed in the way of completion which threatened at many times to leave nothing but an abandoned hulk on the banks of the Mystic to show for this attempt to again make the Mystic a center for ship-building.
>
> The war paved the way for the opening of contracts, which led to the building of the schooner, and the war in turn placed the obstacles in its way, which all but led to the abandonment of the project. . . . In 1917 the Mystic River Ship Company was formed and made plans for the construction of a vessel for the mahogany trade . . . legislation prevented putting the vessel to the use for which it was intended. An order from the Norwegian government received, work was begun. Its keel was laid on March 12, 1918. Again legislation prevented delivery of ships to the Norwegian government and work stopped. At intervals when money could be raised work was resumed. . . . The last work by the ship company was done in December, 1919. From that time until August 5 of this year work was abandoned. Then the Trust Company took up the work of completion. The schooner is 175 feet in keel, 204 feet over all, 38.2 feet in width, 19.6 feet in depth and has two decks. . . . First-class rooms, with the most modern conveniences, were built for the officers and crew. She will carry a crew of nine men, and has capacity of 1600 tons of coal, although she can be used for other trade.

By the above it appears that the enterprise of building this vessel has been attended with adversity and probable loss to the originators, and that the ultimate cost was far in excess of the early estimate. During the construction the writer made a number of visits and was courteously treated, and learned much new to him that certainly increased the regard he had for the men who toiled in the shipyards of Medford in the days of yore, and whose work made Medford famous.

The forests of the South and of the Pacific slope, as well as the oaks of nearer states enter into the construction of the *Tremont*, while steam, compressed air, and the gas engine had much to do in shaping timbers and boring for tree-nails that in the old days, even of the building of the *Pilgrim* in '73, was laboriously done by hand. The place of the *Tremont's* building is not in Medford but in Somerville, and supposedly at or near where the *Blessing of the Bay* was built and launched in 1631, and till 1842 a part of Charlestown.

By annexation from other towns the original Medford has extended its borders and Wellington bridge connects and makes neighbors of those the river separated. Great possibilities of growth and improvement lie along the Mystic up-stream, that coming years should see realized. Under wise municipal administration and mutual co-operation of labor with capital this may be for the future historian to record.

MORE ABOUT THE GRIST MILL.

To the Editor of the Medford Historical Register:

Dear Sir:—

I was much interested in article (Vol. XXIII, p. 53) on Medford's first grist mill. It occurs to me that it is timely to try to answer some of the questions asked in the article, and perhaps to criticize some of the statements and conclusions of the author. I agree with Mr. Brooks that in all probability the Wade mill was the first erected within Medford limits. The senior Mr. Wade purchased land in Medford May 25, 1661, and his sons Jonathan and Nathaniel came to reside thereon soon after the purchase. He himself resided in Ipswich, where he died in 1683. By his will he gave to his son Jonathan one-half of his farm in Mistick, with one-half of the stock upon it, and he gave to his son Nathaniel the other half of the farm and the other half of the stock, "to be divided equally between them." The westerly

part of the farm was Jonathan's share. It was upon the brook in that part that the mill was located. It was called a saw mill, although it may also have been used as a grist mill.

Medford people were no doubt served at Broughton's mill (built in 1656) which, although situated across the river in Charlestown (present Arlington), was owned and operated by Medford men the greater part of the time. In 1698, when the town petitioned the General Court "for liberty to build a grist mill on the river near and above Mistick bridge," it must have been its intention to build it as a public work. The General Court granted the petition, but it is evident that no action was taken by the town to build a mill, as the records fail to show that the town ever voted to build, or to appropriate any money therefor. In the absence of any such votes we may rest assured that no mill was built by the town. Broughton's mill must then (1698) have been out of repair and unable to serve Medford people or they would not have complained of being obliged to travel as far as Noddle's Island (East Boston) to be served. This petition affected the interests of Mr. Joseph Prout, owning as he did the Broughton mill, where, as he said, the public had been served for about "thirty or forty years," and in all probability it moved him to take action to supply the wants of the Medford people by putting in repair the old Broughton mill on the Charlestown side of the river.

In the year 1710 Joseph Prout sold to Jonathan Dunster, "mill, mill-yard, buildings and Orchard one Acre also one and one-half acres of upland on the north side of the river at the end of the old dam." In the same conveyance is named "one and three-fourths acres of meadow land on the north side of the river at the end of the mill dam." It is beyond a doubt that a mill was on the Charlestown side of the river (whatever its condition may have been) at the time of this sale, and we know that the one and one-half acres of upland at the end of "the old dam" extended to the water's edge without any

meadow land intervening, and we also know that the one and three-fourths acres of meadow land at the "end of the mill dam" is the identical land upon which the remains of an old structure were found.* Harvard avenue is located through this land. Does not the omission of the mention of a mill on this land indicate that there was not any mill there at the time of the sale? And if this is correct, it shows that while in all probability Joseph Prout built the dam, or allowed Jonathan Dunster to build it, Mr. Dunster must have the credit of building a new mill where those remains were found on this land. It is to be noted that Broughton's mill was built *before* he received a deed of the land from Henry Dunster.

In the year 1822, Moses Robbins, a descendant of Jonathan Dunster, deeded to Cyrus Cutter "one acre of marsh land, bounded southwest on Mystic river, northeast on Deacon John Larkin, southeast on James Cutter, together with all the mill privileges if there be any belonging to the said parcel of land" on the north side of the river. There is no mention of a building in the deed. James Cutter owned the other part of the acre and three-fourths of marsh land that Joseph Prout sold to Jonathan Dunster.

Mr. Brooks says, in writing of a mill a short distance below Wear bridge, "the place is yet occupied." If we are to be guided by Moses Robbins' deed, there was not any building there in 1822, but the conveyance of mill rights shows that a mill stood there at one time. Mr. Brooks' statement that the place is yet occupied probably had reference to the remains recently discovered.

In regard to the query about Mistick bridge, I answer that the term Mistick bridge meant the bridge located where the Cradock bridge now stands. There was no other bridge across the river at that date (1698). In 1699, the town voted to give Mr. John Johnson "three pounds towards building a horse bridge over the wears." That bridge, which it is assumed was built, must have had a brief existence, for many years after, constant complaints

*See Illustration, Vol. XIII, No. 3.

were made of the lack of a bridge at the wears. Medford and Charlestown neglected to supply the wants of the people, until in 1747 the General Court ordered "that a good and sufficient bridge be erected over the wears." That bridge when erected made a *second* bridge over the river.

In 1757, "Medford Great bridge" was spoken of, evidently to distinguish it from the new bridge over the wears. It is doubtful if at that time the term "Wear bridge," was in use. The bridge at the center was called Mistick as late as 1754. It is not at all probable that Broughton's mill dam was ever called a bridge.

I was also interested, and somewhat amused with the view of Medford in 1839, as shown in the REGISTER, Vol. XXIII, No. 3, and in reading some of the remarks of the author of the article in explanation of the illustration. I was interested because I lived in what is called Moore square in that same year (1839), and in that vicinity for many years after, and there is hardly a foot of land but what I have traveled over time and again. I fail to recognize Moore square as the place where the four-horse team is located, for the reason that had the team been in or near the square it would have been surrounded by houses and such a view would have been impossible. Nor could the point of view of the artist have been on Main street where the author of the article assumes it to be, unless it was as far away from Moore square as Brooks park, and then he would have been obliged to ignore the Middlesex canal, Branch canal and locks, also the Turnpike with the bridge over the Branch, to have sketched such a view, all of which were plainly visible. As I look at the illustration, the four-horse team is on Mystic avenue, or the Turnpike of those days. Note the wide expanse of land between the road and the river, without any road or building intervening. Without doubt that is the salt marsh, which occupied the entire space between the road and the river. I lived on the turnpike in the year 1843 (not far

from where the boy appears to be standing), and I have seen just that view times without number, and I confidently assert that there is no other place where such a view could have been taken except in that vicinity.

Of course, when one learns that the illustration is intended to represent Medford, it is not difficult to point out what the author of the article deemed to be the most prominent buildings, but were it not for the word Medford applied to the illustration, I should never suspect it was our good old town.

JOHN H. HOOPER.

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

Referring to Mr. Hooper's letter, it is clearly evident that Medford in its corporate capacity never availed itself of the legislative permission to build a grist-mill. In using the caption "Medford's *First Grist-mill*" it was not our intention to claim any municipal construction or ownership. By interview we find Mr. Hooper is of the opinion that the "very suitable place a little above Mistick bridge" was on the present Armory grounds, because of the peculiar configuration of the land and the creek, the slight remains of which may yet be observed in the rear of the Tufts residence.

Remembering the fact that there was formerly an island nearby, we are quite sure this location is nearly a duplicate of the one up-stream where the remains of that old structure were found. It is also certain that it was later the site of a tanning establishment, but with how much (or little) of power we cannot say. Again, the objections raised by Prout would be stronger against this site than the other.

But it is certain that *somebody* built a dam at the upper site and on land then (or later) owned by Prout, within a few years after the petition we have quoted, as shown by the following, which is a copy of the deed of

Joseph Prout to Jonathan Dunster referred to by Mr. Hooper.*

All that his millstead lying and being on Mistick alias called Medford River att Menotomy with the millyard and orchard within the bounds of Charlestowne containing one acre more or less bounding easterly, south, and westerly by said Dunster's lands and northerly on the river.

Also one acre and three quarters of Medow Land belonging thereto be it more or less lying on the north side of the River and at the end of the Mill Dam bounding on the land of Ebenezer Brooks within the bounds of Medford.

Also another piece of upland containing an acre and a half lying on the north side of the River at the end of the old Dam within the bounds of Medford bounded by the said Brooks his land be the same more or less.

Together with the Dwelling House fences, Trees fruit-trees on said premises with the Banks Damms Streams Wayes w^{ch}. Mr. Broughton purchased from Mr. Henry Dunster.

Mr. Henry Dunster† was the first President of Harvard College and father of Jonathan, the grantee named above.

Just here the reader will do well to remember that until 1842 Charlestown extended from the Menotomy River along the Mystic River and lakes and farther on to Woburn line on the high land of Turkey hill in present Arlington. Also let the reader note the order in which Prout conveyed the three parcels of land:

First, the acre (in present Arlington) that was surrounded on the three landward sides by property of the grantee and on the other by the river.

Second, the two parcels in Medford, bounded landward by Ebenezer Brooks and otherwise by the river. Notice the first of these two was meadow (*i.e.* marsh) land and at the end of the mill dam; the second, upland at the end of the old dam.

Here are two distinct dams mentioned. The latter dam was almost opposite the angle of present Arlington street, and when constructed was across the stream. The former must have been a wing dam perhaps from

*Middlesex Registry, Book 15, page 201.

†See REGISTER, Vol. XIII, p. 10.

the two islands then at that point in the river. That particular piece of "medow land" is shown on Plan of Smith Estate in 1870 as of ownership of "Cutter," and for years later the marsh grass was annually cut there. Having made his enumeration and description of the three parcels, Prout mentioned the various appurtenances thereto belonging, and while specifying a dwelling house, did not mention any *mill building on either side the river*. Notice, at that time twelve years had elapsed since Medford petitioned the General Court, and fifty-four (or more) since Broughton built his mills, to which in his deed Prout referred not as mill, but as a "*millstead*." With the lapse of years, the adverse decision of the court in the Symmes damage case, which must have been attended with loss of power, and the discontinuance of the Woburn road thereto, the Broughton "millstead" must have been decadent. By acquiring of Prout the acre and three quarters of meadow land in Medford, Jonathan Dunster, who lived opposite, by building a mill on this "suitable place" in Medford could supply the needs of Medford people and his mill be "a Convenience of places Adjacent."

We regret that at the time of the unearthing of the remains of that old mill Mr. Hooper was absent from town, and so never saw them. Had he, with his mechanical knowledge he could have explained many things that are beyond our ken, and we know no other to whom we can appeal. At an interview, he furnished us the following from the Middlesex Court File of June, 1679, in case of Prout *vs.* Dunster, *et al.*:

I Thomas Gleison aged abt. 66: years do testifie y^{t} when I was tenant to M^{r} Henr Dunster w^{ch} is now neere 20: years past & then occupied his farme house adjoyneing to Cambridge Comon on y^{e} west side winottime the said Dunster told mee y^{t} he had sold a highway for the use of Misticke Mill, and then he told mee that y^{e} said highway was to pass through his land from the Mill to Cambr. Comon, and asked mee whether it were better it should by thorow y^{e} yard adjoyneing to y^{e} sd Gleisons then dwelling-house, or on y^{e} other side of y^{e} Lott next Goodm. Russells lott. Whereupon I told

him that unless it were fenced out, it were fare better y^t^ it should by thorow y^e^ yard for y^t^ was in sight, whereupon Mr Dunster thanked mee for my advice, & prayed mee y^t^ people might passe w^th^out disturbance, w^ch^ they did accordingly while I was there, also he told mee y^t^ he had received ten pounds for y^e^ same.

Taken upon Oath, 23, 4, 1676
Before Thomas Danforth, Assist^t^.

The "Cambridge Comon" in the above was the common or pasturage land of Cambridge, which then included Lexington in its bounds. Referring to Henry Dunster's deed to Broughton (see REGISTER, Vol. XIII, p. 10) we find conveyance of

two Rods broad for a highway (from the s^d^ Mills) to go too & fro betwixt the said Mills & Concord way throu all the land of the said Hen. Dunster till it shall come to the publique country highway to Concord,

and that Thomas Gleason was one of the witnesses to the same on March 6, 1656. Evidently this was the "Wayes" mentioned in Prout's deed of 1710 and corresponds to present Winter street in Arlington.

As pertinent to these conveyances and the site of the old Broughton mill we refer to our frontispiece and acknowledge the forethought and interest of Mr. Hooper in securing the two views of the mill site just before obliteration.

THE TOURO HOUSE AND ITS OWNER.

Some of our older Medford residents will remember the old, comfortable-appearing dwelling on South street, which, perhaps a dozen years since, was demolished to make way for the erection of several apartment houses. It faced the river, sat low on the ground, well back from the street, with ample space about it. The main house was L-shaped; in the internal angle was a large square veranda, its roof supported at the outer corner by a massive round column. A peculiar feature of the house was the circular end toward South street, in which was a chimney and fireplaces.

Aside from that of the elder Magoun, it was the only one in old Medford that had any circular construction. It was never painted in color, always white, and its solid appearance, especially its window frames and cornice, showed it to be the work of old-time mechanics who knew their calling. Its walls were weather-boarded with clapboards, well lapped in width and at ends. These extended around the circle also — another proof of the workmen's skill. This house was, a century ago, the summer home of Abraham Touro, a wealthy Boston merchant, who went out from it one morning but never again came to it because of an accident resulting in his death in Boston on October 20, 1822. We have alluded elsewhere in this issue to a "Touro–Lafayette episode," and now quote from page 493, Brooks' *History of Medford:*

1825.— Medford has not been a resort for Jews; but it had one who is remembered with interest, Abraham Touro, eminent for his social and generous qualities. When General Lafayette reached Massachusetts, Mr. Touro offered him his noble horse for his entrance into Boston. On the day of that triumphal entry, Mr. Touro was standing in his chaise to catch his first sight of the illustrious visitor, when a sudden start of his horse threw him from his place and broke his leg. The fracture was a very bad one, and the patient grew worse daily. The physicians and surgeons did all they could, and finally assured him that nothing but amputation could save his life. With a Jew's traditionary prejudice against that operation, he firmly answered thus: "*No!* I will never go into heaven with one leg."

Mr. Brooks made brief mention of his wealth and legacies. We can but wonder what he would think could he read the Medford tax-list today; and also as to his source of information relative to Lafayette, whose first return to this country was in the fall of 1824, two years after Mr. Touro's death.

From the *Independent Chronicle and Patriot* of Wednesday, October 25, 1822, we quote the following, which may be regarded as authentic:

Died. On Friday afternoon, *Abraham Touro, Esq.*, merchant,

aged, abt. 46. While viewing the military parade on the 3d inst. in a chaise, his horse was frightened by the fire of the artillery, and became unmanageable, and Mr. T. in leaping from the chaise fractured his leg so seriously, that notwithstanding the best surgical assistance, a mortification ensued and terminated his life. We learn that among other legacies, he has bequeathed 10,000 dollars to the General Hospital and 15,000 to the synagogue at Newport, at which place his body will be interred.

So it appears that his offer of "his noble horse" to Lafayette for a triumphant entry into Boston (which has been accepted as veritable history since 1855), vanishes; and must be added to the catalogue of "Medford Myths."

But how came this accident to happen? We will summon a former Medford man, Caleb Swan. His testimony is not a deposition under oath to be filed in court, but is, however, in writing and interleaved in his copy of Mr. Brooks' history at page 493, on which page is *written* 1824 beside the printed 1825. Mr. Swan evidently observed the dissimilarity in date, but makes no note of the *error* as to Lafayette.

Mr Dudley Hall told me in 1853 [that] Mr. Touro lent his own horse to a military friend to ride on the Parade—and his friend sent his own horse to Mr Touro, to use in place of his own—after breakfast, he concluded to drive the horse into Boston, and drove over to Mr Hall, to ride in with him. Mr H. did not wish to go that day, but Mr. Touro urged him, and finally told him he did not like to go alone with so spirited a horse as he had, when Mr H. got into the Chaise, and rode into Boston, and then left him [at] head of Elm Street, and went into State Street. Mr. Touro then drove up to the Common, where the accident happened. B. L. S.[wan] says Mr Touro was standing up in his Chaise to look over the heads of the Crowd, and see the Troops, when at 12, a Cannon was fired—his horse started, and turned around when he fell out—his leg was broken below the knee.

The "Parade" was the fall inspection of the militia of Boston and Chelsea and the review on the Common.

Mr. Swan purchased five copies of the "History of Medford" at its publication in '55, and in 1905 his personal copy with his interleavings was given to the Historical Society by his grandson, Charles Herbert Swan,

only recently deceased. The "military friend" with whom Mr. Touro made the temporary exchange of horses, was undoubtedly Governor Brooks; and the occasion of this inspection and review may have been his last, certainly one of his latest, public appearances. Probably Mr. Touro, in leaving his pleasant home in Medford that morning, little thought that he was never to return to it. We are unable to ascertain whether his death occurred at the hospital or at his Boston residence, — but probably at the former — nor yet anything of his funeral. He was president of the Medford Turnpike Corporation at the time of his death, though not one of the original stockholders, but there is no note of his passing upon its records. It is fitting here to reproduce, from the pen of a modern historian and genealogist, the following which we find in our Society's library. It is signed with his *pen name*, but he "*in propria persona*" gives us his permission thus to use it:

NOTES AND QUERIES, BOSTON TRANSCRIPT

Saturday, December 30, 1911.

Note 2478. Touro Family of Boston and Medford. New information from a descendant. Abraham Touro was a man of ability. He was aggressive in his business affairs. His patrimony may not have been large, but he had the way of his people in getting along in the world of trade. Perhaps he entered into much of the good will of the business of his uncle, Moses Michael Hays, and then he acted in the interests of himself and his brother, Judah Touro of New Orleans. His vessels were known in many a port, and though plying between Boston and the ports of the Indies, his new vessels were from his own stocks and shipyard in Medford, to which place also his vessels in need of repairs resorted.

It was a sad day in Boston when he met his untimely injury and death, in October, 1822. Many were dependent upon him. He lived in a world of business. His home with his sister Rebecca was his castle. He had a home in Boston, but he best enjoyed his home in Medford, where he could have the society also of his neighbor, Governor Brooks. His will and the papers which refer to his estate, evidence concerning his business and his friendships. To be sure he dealt in wines by the tierce, and these he bestowed in quantities sufficient in which to take a bath. This was in years before the Washingtonian movement. He was generous to Gov-

ernor John Brooks, Dr. John Warren, Captain John Pratt, R. D. Shepherd and John Coffin Jones. The wines contributed to the festivities and good fellowship of the day. He did not forget his friends, and in those days of his intense distress he did not forget good causes, nor the finest interests of his own people. To the Jewish Synagogue in New York city he gave $10,000; also he gave to the Legislature of Rhode Island the sum of $10,000 for the support of the Synagogue in Newport, and to the Massachusetts General Hospital he gave $10,000. This sum fairly took the breath away of this last organization. Their gifts had not been in large sums, but it came at a most opportune time. He himself felt the need of the highest surgical skill. If he could have had it perhaps his life could have been saved. Mr. Touro also remembered the town government of Newport with the sum of $10,000 for the repairing and the preserving of the street from the Jewish Burying Ground to Main street. The town might well name the same Touro avenue. The asylum for boys, and also for girls, of Boston, and Humane Society, to each he gave $5,000; and to his old-time friend, Mrs. Juliet Lopez of New York city, he gave $10,000; he remitted many an indebtedness to his friends and helpers. And there was one kindly gift to Nahum Cobb, "a yellow servant," in the family, of $500, which must have looked large to the man to whom five dollars was monumental.

The assets of the estate of Abraham Touro were a medley of bank stock, general and local, which the brokers of today know little of, and there was stock in many an enterprise where public spirit was the prominent feature rather than dividends. Among them the Malden, Charlestown and Kennebec bridge companies, the Newburyport Turnpike, the Medford Turnpike, and plentiful shares in the Middlesex Canal; also the South Boston Corporation, to say nothing of above a thousand shares in the Amoskeag Company and shares in the Boston Theatre and the bathing house and riding school. These were beneficial in the end to the public, but whether they yielded dividends we say not. But Mr. Touro was public-spirited and entered into them. His chief income was from his merchandise overseas.

The Touro mansion in Medford was near present Touro avenue, and his shipyard towards the river, and his lands reached wellnigh to the Medford Hillside Railroad station and towards, but not including, some of the campus of Tufts College. In his day he little dreamed of the vision of Mr. Tufts putting a light upon the bleak pasture lands of Walnut Hill.

OLIVER WISWALL.*

To this we will add that the Medford turnpike and

* Rev. Anson Titus.

Middlesex canal paid dividends for a time. As to Mr. Touro's shipyard or vessels he had built in Medford — we fail to find even the slightest mention of any such in that long list compiled by Rev. Augustus Baker in 1846.

Yet, Mr. Touro, with his wealth, *may* have been a "silent partner" in that great Medford business of a century ago. As said above, his name is preserved, and is in daily use in Medford in Touro avenue, but we know of no relic of his old home other than the iron fireback taken from the chimney and given to the Royall House Association.

Abraham Touro was the son of Rev. Isaac Touro, and had a brother Judah, who was seriously wounded "on the field of Chalmette," in the battle which occurred after peace was declared. Rescued by his "dear, old and devoted friend," Rezen Davis Shepherd, he lived for nearly forty years, dying at Richmond, Va., at the age of seventy-seven years. It may be remembered that his gift of $10,000 contributed largely to success in the erection of Bunker Hill monument.

The Touros sleep in the Jewish cemetery at Newport, R. I. Doubtless the inscription on Judah's tablet may be well applied to Abraham of Medford,

> By righteousness and integrity he collected his wealth,
> In charity and salvation he dispensed it.

THE SOCIETY'S WORK, 1919-20.

The opening meeting, October 20, was a "Get-Together Social," enjoyed by all present. November 17, John Albree, Esq., of Swampscott (a member) gave an illustrated talk, "An Old Quaker's Diary." A graphic recital of "War Experiences," by Rev. Henry Francis Smith of West Medford on December 15. The largest attendance was on March 15. Mr. Malcom Davis, Superintendent, gave an address on the "Boy Scouts" and seventeen Scouts gave examples of their work and training, after which refreshments were served. May 17, Librarian George S. Evans of Somerville told of the settling of Woburn in "The Seven against the Wilderness," presenting a copy to our library. October 20,

February 16 and April 19 the meetings were conducted by our members in informal manner and "Questionnaire," "What do you know about salt hay" proving of interest. The annual meeting, January 19, came in the wake of a blizzard and deep snow. Favorable reports of officers were received — our home free of debt and practically a clean slate on current expenses. The election made no change in *personell* of Executive Board. Vice-President Ackerman was chosen President, succeeding Mr. Mann, who was chosen Librarian to succeed Mr. Remele, who succeeds Mr. Ackerman as Vice-President. A substantial "token of esteem" was presented to the retiring President, who received it in *surprise* with "*thanks*" closing five years of service with no absent marks.

On Patriots' Day over a hundred visitors came to our rooms.

The Society has been represented at the Bay State League meetings.

ANOTHER RETROSPECT.

With this issue the REGISTER closes its twenty-third volume. It has always been its purpose to be a register distinctively of Medford people and associations and of Medford affairs, venturing outside only as connected with them. At an early date the fear was expressed by some that subject matter would soon be exhausted. That fear proved groundless but others have arisen.

While harboring none of superstition, at the closing of the twelfth volume we expressed the wish that the thirteenth might be in no wise *unlucky*, and asked for larger co-operation and increased circulation. Eleven years have passed, our Society has had *two* "removes," but is *not* facing a third, being now settled in its own home. We have "been through the war" experience of increased cost and high prices, and close Vol. XXIII with a deficit. We feared the directors would say "*Skiddoo*," which is, being interpreted, "Cease publication." Yet they direct us to continue, trusting to the appreciation of our members, the Medford reading public, and the good will of all for larger future support. We trust that the culminating numbers (either thirteen or twenty-three) may not prove disastrous, and that the REGISTER'S future issues may be largely increased.

THE

MEDFORD HISTORICAL REGISTER

VOL. XXIV, 1921

PUBLISHED BY THE
MEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEDFORD, MASS.

MEDFORD
J. C. MILLER, JR., PRINTER

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FORM OF BEQUEST.

I give and bequeath to the Medford Historical Society, in the city of Medford, Mass., the sum of _____ Dollars for the general use and purposes of said Society.

(Signed) _____

J. C. MILLER, JR., PRINTER, MEDFORD.

HOUSE OF WORSHIP OF FIRST PARISH (UNITARIAN)
Erected by Oakman Joyce, 1839
Destroyed by fire, Sunday, January 15, 1893

The Medford Historical Register.

Vol. XXIV. MARCH, 1921. No. 1.

THE TOWERS OF MEDFORD.

"Tell the towers thereof." Psalm 48:12.

IN a former issue of the Register, its readers have been enabled to perambulate the town lines; in this they may learn of its towers, ancient and modern.

Consulting our dictionary we find a tower to be a structure tall or lofty as compared with its basal size, and are referred to spire, pagoda, campanile and steeple as related thereto.

We remember that in our earliest schooldays a geography or atlas had upon its cover a grouped picture of the world's then tallest buildings, the great pyramid of Egypt forming its background. Its apex of five hundred feet was the limit of human constructive ability. Contemporary with it was *Gleason's Pictorial*, which carried into many homes, weekly, a view of Boston from the harbor, its crowning feature the State house dome and cupola, accentuated by the many church spires of that time.

That was before the age of steel and the erection of modern office buildings; and no one thought then that the granite custom-house would grow to a height exceeding Cheops, or of a three-hundred-foot structure in Medford. The same authority (the dictionary) tells us that towers were originally built for religious or memorial purposes or for defense. But an older Book tells of the earliest tower of which we have record, in these words,

> And they said, Go to, let us build us a city, and a tower whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name . . . and they left off to build the city.

Hard burned brick laid in bitumen is most durable construction, but the purpose failed to pass inspection.

Evidently this tower of centuries agone was not one of religion, and failed of completion as a memorial. Read this about one for defense and shelter as it is told in old English:

"And bildide a *tour*, and hiride it to erthe tilleris & wente fer in pilgrimage" Wycliffe's trans. Matthew xxi.

That mentioned in the parable was a watch-tower.

And now we come to the first Medford tower, its use or purpose both secular and religious. It was that of the second Medford meeting-house. Indeed, we have often wondered why its height, thirty-three feet to the eaves, was so disproportionate to its width of thirty-eight. It being built in the valley, perhaps on the site of a brickyard, those early citizens may have emulated a little the ambitions of others, and, tall as their new meeting-house was with its pyramidal roof, they built thereon a *little tower*, *i. e.*, a toweret or turret, and in it later was placed the first Medford bell.

But it was nearly a century after its first settling that Medford acquired this visible distinction which is a feature of New England towns. Though the first meeting-house, on the "great rock by Oborn rode," never had this distinguishing exterior feature, it had *in* its pulpit a "little tower," or *tourelle*, in the person of its minister, who spelled his name Turell,—which would indicate that his ancestors were of French extraction. To him it was given to be the occupant of the second pulpit during its entire existence and to begin that of another. That second pulpit only lacked supporting pillars under its "sounding board" (it being suspended by an iron rod), to make it almost a duplicate of the bell turret, the only example of which latter now remaining is that in Hingham, built in 1681.

In 1669-70 was built the third meeting-house. This had the feature of "*a tower from the ground*," whose first floor formed a vestibule, and contained a staircase leading to the gallery. Higher up, may (prior to 1812) have

been stored the town's stock of powder. We are assuming this last, as such was the custom elsewhere.

This tower was quite imposing in appearance, five stories in height, and stood directly against the easterly *end* of the meeting-house, which was of ample proportion to accommodate the growing town. It was surmounted by an open belfry. A lofty, tapering spire, which latter seems to have been an afterthought, was a visible monument to Medford's "civic pride." Whether its builders had disposition to "crow over their neighbors" of Woburn, Malden and Cambridge or over Charlestown (some of whose territory had lately been acquired) may not be said; but upon this lofty spire was perched a great brass rooster, beside which the present Unitarian bird is but a chicken. We were told by an eye-witness that Sam Swan, who lived next door, captured this same brass bird (which fell at his feet when the spire was pulled down in 1839), and carried it home with him.

In the fifth story of this tower was placed in 1810 the first of Medford's public clocks, a gift to the town by Hon. Peter Chardon Brooks. We read in "Paul Revere's Ride"

> It was twelve by the village clock
> When he crossed the bridge into Medford town

Doubtless the *hour* was right, but Mr. Longfellow was thirty-five years ahead of time, by poetic license. To be historically correct, read hereafter, by the *villagers' clocks*, and do no injustice to the famous poem.

Before the rooster's downfall the second Medford bell was safely lowered, and with the clock had a resting time. At the completion of the new Unitarian meeting-house (for such it was still called) both clock and bell were placed in its *steeple* for fifty-four years more of associated service.

But by this time the style of meeting-house architecture had undergone a change, and Medford people followed the "fashion" and "steepled church edifices"

came into vogue. There had also come a varying thought in the religious belief of the people, sufficient to require several houses of worship. The great meeting-house on the hill, with its "*tower from the ground*," was the last built by municipal appropriation. State and church being separated, each church organization must build for itself, and according to its taste and means. That they did so may be seen in the illustrated pages 340-41-42 in Brooks' History of Medford. These views are worth a careful study. They show a sturdy character, sensible and careful construction, architectural taste, both elaborate and modest, in all.

In that of the "Second Congregational Meeting-house, 1824," we find the first of the "storied steeples" built in Medford. Note the colonnaded front with its wreathed entablature; also the consoles under the sloping roof cornice. But we see none of this upon the sides of the structure. Its windows show circular tops, but this may have been only exterior blinds. But the four-storied steeple, with its massive urns, clock dials and louvers, its final section octagonal and domed, all show the skill of an architect, and set the style of the next five to be built in Medford.

Next was the "First Parish Meeting-house (Unitarian) 1839," a little larger on the ground; here again a colonnade of four detached columns and four pilasters. A similar treatment of the sides shows it to be classic Greek, in its lines almost severe. But its tower was one worth seeing. In the gable beneath, was a circular window whose sash bars resembled the equator, parallels and meridians of the map of the hemispheres, and enclosed in a wreath of carved woodwork. The first story, in which was the clock, resembled the die of a monument, and each cornice had a gabled pediment, each corner surmounted with the conventional honeysuckle in carving, as was each corner of the building itself. More elaborate was the belfry colonnade above the clock, whose four dials were encircled by a carved wreath.

Next above the belfry was an octagon story with a fluted pillar at each corner, and this was topped by a circular section, also pillared and domed. Both these had an ornamental metallic cresting at the edge of the cornice. Whether intentional or not, the artist shows the vanes (similar in appearance) of these two towers pointing in opposite directions. An idea of the size of these four columns may be had from the following, told by one of the workmen who assisted at its building: Accidentally dropping his hammer therein, he procured a rope and lowered a boy down inside, who securing it was safely hoisted out.

Of the three other views mentioned, the "Universalist, 1832" shows the colonnade effect in four pilasters, and an unspired steeple of two stories with diminutive turrets at the four corners, while the "Methodist Meeting-house, 1844," has but a single-storied and four-gabled cupola, with larger and taller corner turrets. By 1849 we find the "Mystic Church, Congregational" following in the steps of its mother, with a colonnaded front of four Corinthian pilasters (still recognizable in the present edifice) and a circular window, similar but larger than that of the First Parish. Unlike either, it had no steeple of any sort, and we may put the time of its erection as about that of the decadence of steeple building, for the fashion was to change.

Thus far we have written of the tower, the turret and steeple, and their erection and use in connection with the meeting-house, now by custom (also changeable) called church, and so since 1849.

As these of the various faiths were erected, there was no occasion for others until the growth of the town toward its border lines made it, and by that time the "fashion" had changed and the tower came into its own again. St. Mary's, on Salem street, near Malden line, whose brick tower in which is a clock paid for by Medford, was the first to build. Then Grace church, outgrowing its wooden chapel of 1850, acquired largely

through the munificence of Mrs. Ellen Shepherd Brooks its beautiful stone church with "ivy mantled tower." In '72 the First Methodist and the First Baptist, and in '73 Trinity Methodist and the Congregational (both the latter at West Medford and new organizations) erected new houses of worship — a remarkable record for two successive years. All these were of wood; all had the features of a corner tower and belfry, with spires varying from forty-eight to one hundred and forty feet in height. In three the town placed public clocks, at the expense of about six hundred dollars each.

In 1876, the two Congregational churches near Medford square united, and enlarged and remodeled the building on Salem street, erecting a corner tower, belfry and spire. To it was removed the first clock bought by the town (in '70), with its associated and former political bell, where they still remain in service. Previously, both had been in the tower of the High street edifice, erected in 1860, replacing the "Second Congregational Meeting-house, 1824," burned in 1860. Sold to the Roman Catholics, little change was made in exterior, only the closing of the louvers of the belfry and the substitution of a gilded cross for the weather-vane on the spire. It was told that a bit of pleasant repartee occurred between the Mystic Church pastor and the parish priest on one occasion. The former, in passing, accosted the latter, who in his robes was overlooking the work, with "Ah! what are you doing now?" and got the reply, "Sure, we are taking down the emblem of Protestantism and putting in its place that of Christianity." We never heard that there was any extended argument over the matter, and venture the opinion, that however convenient it may be to know the way the wind blows, a church spire is an inappropriate place for an ever shifting wind vane. Yet two such remain today. Four have been removed by destructive fire and in rebuilding have not been replaced. One of these was at the time of its placing styled "the golden gate," because of its resemblance in shape to the old-style farm gate, made by balancing a tree upon a

pivot, with its interwoven branches closing the space below it. It was eight feet in length and over one hundred and fifty feet in the air, on the Methodist church on Salem street. The tall tower of this (its third house of worship) was rectangular, sixteen by twenty-two feet, and its slated spire (surmounting an open belfry), a wedge six feet in width at the top. It was the architect's design to have the iron spindle, on which the vane swung, at the front end of this ridge, but the builders suited their own convenience, placing it in the middle.

In 1885 the vane became damaged, the "butt of the log" slanted downward and appeared likely to fall. To add to the danger, several slates near the apex had become loosened and hung by one nail in an angular position, one directly over the side entrance door. Being one of the "committee on repairs" who could find none willing to undertake the job, the writer, with no previous experience as steeplejack, undertook its removal and repair himself. Building a scaffolding of two tiers on all sides, on timbers projecting from the belfry floor and about the clock dials, made a starting place for the upward climb of the eastern side of the wedge. Three stagings were made by bolting brackets on the spire, two men outside and two inside doing the work. The fourth depended on the strength of nails and skillful driving, to sustain the weight of two men and apparatus. Three feet higher was the ridge on which we stood. Clinging to the iron spindle, we sawed off an iron set-screw, releasing the four-branched cardinal, and lashed the vane to a stout pole by which it was lifted higher and off the supporting pivot.

It was our first experience "on the pinnacle of the temple"; strict attention to the business in hand allowed no inclination to cast ourselves down — there were two of us — and we had little time to admire the view. About a dozen ascents finished our work, and we got safely through it. The gilders that replaced the vane and cardinals left the latter in wrong position, and they never told the truth afterward.

The public clock was in the base of the spire, whose broad sides presented a great exposure to the winds. The weights that propelled its mechanism were huge wooden boxes filled with ledge stone, the larger some six feet in height. Far up near the apex were the sheaves over which extended the chains to which the weights were attached, and whose pivots sometimes needed lubrication by the care taker. As a chain is no stronger than its weakest link, the fact of that enormous weight hanging over his head as he turned the crank numerous times in the weekly winding was far from assuring. But care takers came and went, and so did the worshipers pass in and out for thirty-two years. Like the cathedral lamps of Pisa they swung to and fro in that Medford tower, but there was no Medford Galileo watching their oscillations, for few ever saw them or sensed the overhanging danger.

But the end came on Saturday evening, August 19, 1905, when Medford had all at once three incendiary fires. That in this church spread so rapidly that practically nothing could be removed from it. The tall tower formed a flue up which the flames sped to attack the lofty spire. No set piece of pyrotechnic display was so destructively gorgeous as that presented to our vision when we arrived and found Salem street roped off for safety. The wall and roof covering entirely burned away, the heavier timbers, even to the apex of the wedge, with vane glittering in the intense heat, stood wreathed in flame and burning to their certain fall. Attacked by the upward draught of flame, the weight boxes burst asunder, and down came a cascade of rocks, and also the clock and bell.

While looking on, and thinking of the two-year struggle we had to pay the heavy mortgage of many years' standing, which was a part of its early adornment, we were aroused by a hand on our shoulder, and the words, "Well, Mr.——, you'll never stand up there again." It was the painter who assisted in the repair described.

It has been remarked that "what people do not know does not hurt," but *it might have.* We may trust no other such menace exists as was ended that night.

In rebuilding, the Methodists located elsewhere and built partially of stone, with a corner tower of stone, but of lesser height. In intervening years the Universalists remodeled theirs, discarding the steeple and adding a corner tower. At Tufts College, in the 80's, Goddard Chapel was built of stone from the slate ledge nearby. It has a lofty Lombardic tower which contains the new college bell, and its location on the hill makes it visible in all directions.

In '96 Trinity Methodist built its second house, with two towers. The larger at the modest height of sixty-five feet carries the "emblem of Christianity," seen as a cross from any point of view. In the same year were erected the Baptist Church nearby and the Hillside Universalist, both of which have the corner tower as a notable feature of construction.

St. Joseph's, on High street, is of brick, and its lofty tower has tourelles at its corners, of the same enduring material. Five crosses gleam in the sunlight on this.

Destroyed by fire, the classic edifice of the Unitarians has been replaced by a more modern one of stone, whose tower has a castellated coping, and on whose low spire is perched a cock, said to be "a scriptural emblem." This is the third church edifice to stand on this spot.

Another fire left the Congregationalists of West Medford homeless: not friendless, however, as while the flames were raging came offers of open doors from their neighbors. A new church home of Weymouth granite was ere long erected on High street. Its tower of modest height contains the public clock and the re-cast bell that "went through fire and water." No lofty spire surmounts it, but four graceful turrets of stone at its corners give it an attractive finish, which is enhanced by the stairway tower of the chapel.

At South Medford, the first and second homes of the

Union Congregational embodied the same feature of the corner tower, though not in so marked a degree. Even the little chapel at Wellington was in "fashion," and had a little open belfry on the corner of its roof, which in time housed the city bell.

St. Clement's, in modern stucco, has its square tower of Italian look. St. Raphael's is in Spanish mission style and has no bell tower, but a most unique ventilating turret centrally on its roof sustaining a tall gilded cross. Even the smallest, that of Shiloh, has its open cupola that might hold a bell.

The Hillside Methodist has its tower and bell; the South Medford Baptist, however, in its building never incorporated the feature of tower, turret or steeple. Two others, at present in temporary structures, have none.

So far, in our walk about our home Zion, *i. e.* Medford, and telling the towers therof we have dealt with those of a religious character. Counties have often incorporated this feature in their court houses, as did Middlesex at Cambridge and Lowell, even having two on the jail at the latter city. Medford never had a semblance of one on the *good old town hall*, though one of lofty style was *proposed* for the new one, nearly disrupting the town. But in the houses of the fire department it was once a useful feature. They may still be seen in the Central, Salem street and South Medford stations in brick, and the wooden tower at Glenwood. That at Salem street is peculiarly graceful in design.

To its schoolhouses the feature of a cupola that might contain a bell was but sparingly applied, save in one instance, that of the first Brooks School at West Medford. A description of this may be found in Vol. XIX of the Register.

The tower often lends itself to the utility of a factory, but Medford had few of such. We have been told of one, the Stearns oil mill, that had a detached chimney some fifty feet high that in time was moved across the "branch canal" in its upright position, securely too, to a new location, certainly quite a feat to perform. The

same Mr. Stearns had a windmill tower of brick, the ruin of which may still be seen beside College avenue. With its revolving sails it was an interesting sight, especially when in operation. In sight of that was another tower (once a windmill), the old powder house just over the line in Somerville.

Harvard College erected on the hill beside Winthrop street in 1850 a tower, or cairn of rock, only a few years ago removed. This was for a meridian mark, and due north from the observatory at Cambridge.

Even the most casual observer will note the difference in the dwellings of any town, and experienced ones can tell nearly the time of their erection. The central cupolas came in fashion in the early fifties, and to enumerate them would make an extended list. At about the same time an L-shaped house with a four-story tower at its internal angle was the correct thing, as note the Smith residence (the home of the preceptress of the famous Mystic Hall Seminary), the Wood residence near by and the Chapin house on the hill. Placed upon its eastern front was the elaborately treated tower of Thatcher Magoun. Along in the nineties builders discovered that a corner bay-window added to the attractiveness of a "living room," and very soon carried it up higher. To solve the question of desirable roof, some went even higher. Soon the idea elaborated itself into octagonal and circular forms, with steeply pointed roofs terminated with ornamental finials of wood or metal. When examples of this style became more numerous, a certain newspaper writer held it up to ridicule, in an almost scurrilous article in a Boston daily. In the years that have elapsed has come the tenement house, into which numerous families are crowded, with little privacy or home-like surroundings.

Happily, the once cheaply constructed "three flatter" is now prohibited, but the home-seeker of moderate means finds it difficult to attain his single dwelling house, and did even before the present inflated cost began.

Turning from these to others we allude to the steel trestle of the Radio Corporation on College hill. But four feet square, it is *three hundred* feet high and held in position by several guys. It is to be hoped that it never may become a menace to travelers or the locality.

Another tower, of little beauty, but for a time of some utility, was the water tower for high service, erected at Elm street, near Wright's pond, as auxiliary to the Medford water supply. It was a cylindrical structure of iron boiler plate, into which the water of the pond was pumped for a few years, and was approximately fifty feet high. Its use was discontinued and it was taken down when the city's supply was taken over by the Metropolitan Commission.

There are two observation towers in Medford, one of private ownership, the other of municipal. The latter is the circular stone tower in the park at Hastings Heights. It stands at the crown of the ledge and is about thirty feet high. A circular iron staircase gives access to the concrete floor within its castellated battlement. From this a superb view of Medford and surrounding country may be had. It is one of the creations of Medford's park commission. A Medford engineer, Mr. E. P. Adams, designed it, and two Medford men, Messrs. Byron and Rowe, constructed it, certainly creditable to them all.

But higher and more remote is the great steel tower on the so-called Ram-head hill, erected by the late General S. C. Lawrence, and commonly called the Lawrence Observatory. The top of this hill is variously stated as being two hundred and five or two hundred and twenty-nine feet above sea level. The tower itself consists of four steel fifteen-inch I beams, set diagonally at the corners and firmly secured to the ledge. At every floor these are connected by horizontal beams of steel and in every space diagonal steel ties firmly brace the structure. It is thirty-four feet square at the base and sixteen at the top. There are six floors of the best of

wood, the uppermost eighty-one feet from the base and reached by five flights of stairs, in all one hundred and thirty-four steps. There, stands a flagstaff of thirty-five feet, and over this floor in summer an awning is spread. It is easily approached by the way of Rural avenue, and is about a mile from Winthrop square, and nearer the Winchester boundary line. It was erected by the contracting firm of Woodbury & Leighton, and its architect a Medford man, Mr. Lyman Sise. Its exact location precisely expressed is latitude 42° 26′ 18.8″ north and longitude 71° 7′ 16.2″ west. On a clear day, Monadnock is visible in the northwest, 3,170 feet high.

A little north of west is Wachusett, 2,018 feet, in central Massachusetts. Blue hill, the highest point in eastern Massachusetts, 635 feet, crowned by the Rotch Observatory lies beyond the Memorial hall at Cambridge.

A winter visit to this tower is interesting, though not always comfortable, but one in early summer will reveal a scene of wonderful beauty as one looks down upon the billowy waving green of the surrounding forest, the land-locked lakes of Winchester, the neighboring Fells and over the home city to those beyond. One can trace the moving railway trains by a line of dissolving smoke or escaping steam, but their noise is little in evidence. Though private property, its public-spirited owner made the public welcome to enjoy it, and it is a sad commentary on the manners (or lack thereof) of some visitors that notices are posted requesting visitors not to deface the same. To such extent some of the youth Medford spends so much to educate carried their ill conduct, there has been a possibility of its closure to everybody. The city's tower in Hastings park was even worse treated, and now closed by an iron gate, can only be entered by procuring a key at a neighboring dwelling. Even one of our church buildings has suffered from such indignity, and its entrance porch is closed by an iron gate, excepting only the time of public worship.

We have made a long story of the Medford towers,

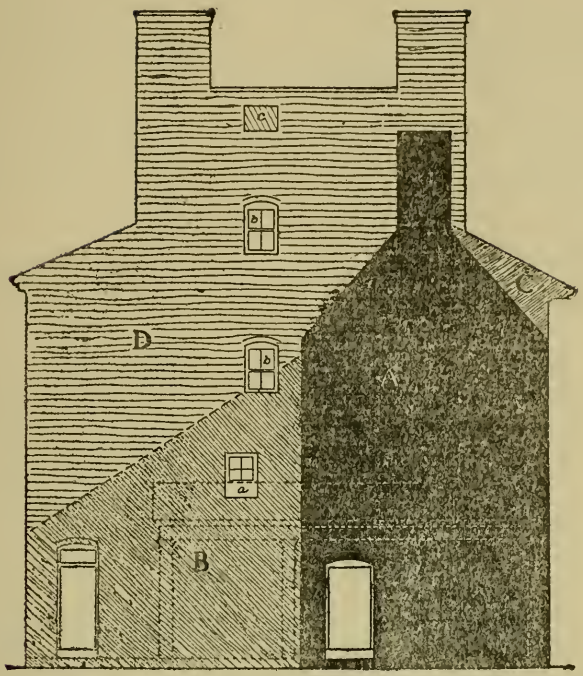
but we recall the closing words of our text taken from Holy Writ, "tell it to the generation following." For the information of those coming after, it is written. On the printed page it may be preserved. Those we have described have been not only useful, but memorials of service, of civic ambition (perhaps of pride), during two and a quarter centuries of a people who served well their day and generation.

The spirit of vandalism and disrespect is abroad among the young, as above shown. That such should be restrained, primarily by home and parental teaching, influence and example is evident from depredations committed within sight of the military and police quarters. Especially tell it to the generation following.

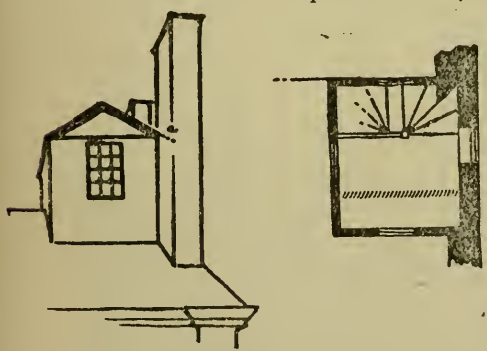
THE ROYALL TOWERS.

There were two such structures at the Royall house. One, doubtless the older, was a lookout-room upon the roof at its southern end. The *exact* date of its construction we may not say, but certainly between the years 1739 and 1775, and more probably prior to 1754, and while the location was a part of old Charlestown. Features still in evidence indicate that it was a part of the final construction made by the younger Colonel Royall. This lookout-room was the interior of a "cupola," as the modern term has it, one side of which was formed by the brick wall between the massive chimneys which overshadowed it. It was doubtless as elaborately finished on its exterior as was the house itself. The views we present are those by Mr. Hooper in "The Evolution of the Royall House," for the showing of its locality and means of access, and not of architectural detail.

From its four windows the lord of the manor could view his extensive domain, or the overseer the numerous slaves under his eye. Through the one in the brick wall marked "c," it is said, Molly Stark looked anxiously on



the eventful day of Bunker hill. This "cupola" must have been removed prior to 1870, as on July 13 of that year a writer in the *Boston Transcript* tells of climbing "the narrow stairs to the roof, where by clinging to the battlement wall for support, a beautiful view may be obtained" of surrounding towns and "even Boston."



But more lofty in itself, more imposing in appearance, faultless in its architecture and more commodious within was the tower (for such it was) called the summerhouse,

which with its one hundred and forty years had the distinction of remaining intact the longest of any in Medford, for whatever purpose built. Drake described it as

> A veritable curiosity in its way, placed upon an artificial mound with two terraces, and reached by broad flights of red sandstone steps. It is octagonal in form, with a bell-shaped roof, surmounted by a cupola, on which is a figure of Mercury.

The *Transcript* writer above quoted was a little astray in his mythology, saying,

> It is surmounted by a large carved wooden statue of Mars, at present minus arms and somewhat bent from a dignified and perpendicular position. A trap-door in the floor being opened discloses underneath a spacious cellar, formerly used for the depository of the summer's supply of ice. Here the inmates of the mansion in its palmy days used to come in the hot summer weather to enjoy whatever breeze there was stirring, and perhaps experience an additional coolness from the frigid storeroom below.

He added something about the presence of a huge punch-bowl. We are fortunate in being able to present a photographic view of it, taken in the days of its decadence; and photography is truthful. The mound on which it stood may still be seen, and maybe the foundation is still in the ground. A somewhat apocryphal story has been told, that under this tower was a *dungeon* for the punitive confinement of misbehaving slaves. Of this we say not.

At the time of this tower's demolition some portions of it were preserved, to serve as patterns for future restoration. Only three years since, two of the pilasters and a window were set up near the new memorial wall, only to be ruthlessly disfigured and the window destroyed by the lawless young element that disgraces our city, the forerunners of the *Bolsheviki* of Medford!

This tower probably antedated that of the third meeting-house by at least twenty years and survived it forty. Its owner left it, never to return, just before the siege of

ISAAC ROYALL'S PAVILION

Boston began. Dr. Tufts of Medford took it in charge, and the house became the headquarters of General Stark during those memorable days. Ninety-five years later, when we first saw it, its appearance was impressive. The figure of Mercury (not Mars) still bore the caduceus, and the feet were still winged, and in its hastening attitude the *Transcript* writer mistook for undignified position, it probably faced the wind. We understand that the remains of this figure of the swift messenger of the gods is still preserved among the curios of the Royall house.

THE ROUTE OF REVERE

[Read at meeting of Medford Historical Society April 18, 1921]

At the present time, with the observance of Patriots' day, it is well for Medford people to consider some of the natural features of one hundred and forty-six years ago. Perhaps others are so doing in the various towns through which the two riders passed, for William Dawes is now being remembered, though there *was* no poet to tell of his ride.

Longfellow wrote that Revere rode over "the bridge into Medford town," which is all very fine; but he really rode into Medford near the top of Winter hill.

Do those that read the poem know how nearly Medford came to being left out of the ride that night? If it was twelve by the villagers' clocks when he rode over the *river*, he must have spent a little of the closing hour of the 18th in Medford, if we can credit the somewhat famous poem.

It was a practically straight road through old Charlestown to old Menotomy, where, in changing his plan, he would have turned squarely to the left, and riding but a short distance, reached the Cooper tavern on the Cambridge road which led up the valley of Sucker brook to Lexington. From the top of Winter hill the Menotomy

road closely borders the Medford boundary, to near that old powder-house the royal forces had then recently raided.

While still in Charlestown, beyond Winter hill, Revere caught sight of some horsemen he thought to be British officers, and so did not continue in that direct route. To lessen his chances of capture he took the right-hand road, making a detour which a little farther on took him into "Medford town," but the bridge was a mile and a half away.

We of today know the road well, but a backward look at it as he rode over it and aroused another town, may be of interest. It was the "publique country road" of that day. There were but four branching from it. These were the roads to Cambridge, to Malden and two to Woburn. They are now known as Harvard, Salem, Woburn and Grove streets. It might better be considered as the earliest road to the north, by calling Woburn street its continuation, and High street (onward from Woburn (a branch, or road to Menotomy, then a part of Cambridge. All others were simply lanes, or ways to the scattered farmhouses of Medford, which was but a little town of less than a thousand inhabitants. And it was a *little* town, too, even with the addition (twenty years before) of the section of Charlestown which moved the boundary from the river to the present lines. Perhaps this may account for the poet's geographical error. But really, if the grouping of dwellings makes a village, we can excuse the poet's mistake, for there were comparatively few, for which there was good reason.

A careful scaling of the map of Medford (and the course of the road is the same today) places Winter brook and Tufts square at approximately a half mile from the boundary line which is near the top of the hill. A half mile further and Revere had passed the Cambridge road (at his left) and crossed Two-penny brook, both more consequential streams than now. Near the latter was a large farmhouse, which, fifty years ago, was

a part of the well known Mystic house. A quarter mile farther on, at the left, there loomed up in his sight, stately and grand, a three-storied house with its several out-buildings. It was in the midst of extensive grounds, and far "back from the village street." This will be easily recognized as the estate of Colonel Isaac Royall, and knowing of his Tory proclivities, it is unlikely that Revere stopped there but rode quickly by.

Another quarter mile brought him to Fish-house lane (the present South street), the old way to the fording place. A few houses were there, among them the Admiral Vernon tavern, and the river and bridge lay ahead. Another quarter and he had passed over it, by the Royal Oak tavern, and turning squarely to the left, he sped on. That quarter mile brought him through the densest settled part of Medford, to where we meet tonight; but it wasn't called Governors avenue then. If we can credit the poet's words about the hour, the good people of Medford were enjoying their midnight rest, when, having passed Colonel Isaac by, he, as he says in his deposition (or rather letter to Dr. Belknap), "in Medford, aroused the captain of the minute-men," in this case another Isaac, surnamed *Hall.*

Perhaps Captain Hall, in his night-cap, poked his head out the chamber window to know what the unseasonable racket was about, and he soon learned. It wasn't a time for much ceremony, military salutes or long stories, and the rider was soon on his way, having covered just half of his extra detour through Medford. In the next half mile he had passed the new meeting-house, whose old bell perhaps was already ringing, the old home of the venerable Parson Turell, who was still living, and a house older still beyond it, and probably next a smaller one, to which, ere another midnight hour, the dead and wounded would be brought —victims of the bloody work ahead. That brought him over the brook and up the hill to where the first meeting-house had been.

The roads divided a little further on at its top. He

kept to the left. We have no idea it was a silent ride. He doubtless shouted, "Wake up, turn out, the regulars are coming!" as he rode hastily along. Soon the lights twinkled in the windows and the guns were taken down (all probably in readiness) and the village was astir behind him. Another quarter mile and he had passed over Whitmore brook, and a little further, a place where we "stop, look and listen" now. He did not, nor did people, need to there till sixty years later. Another quarter and he passed Rev. Edward Brooks', and still another made three miles and a half through Medford; then over Wear bridge into Charlestown again. Another half-mile (about a quarter of it in Menotomy) brought him to the Cooper tavern. There, he turned to the right toward Lexington, into the course he deflected from at the top of Winter hill, but still ahead in the game.

The time we have referred to (1775) was midway between Medford's settling and today. Its population the following year was nine hundred and sixty-seven. As an immediate result of the alarm thus given, fifty-nine Medford men responded and were in the first of a struggle that lasted seven years. It was a time when people dated important papers as of the fifteenth year of his majesty's reign. The next year they ceased so to do. The public, or town, records show little change other than this. At the close of the Revolution Medford had fourteen less people than in '75, and in fifty years its growth was but slow, and changes in the body politic were slow. But how about the body physical? By this we mean the visible and material town, as seen in its land, its waters, its woods and streets, its dwellings and public buildings. How many dwellings along the way Revere rode remain today? How many in our territorial boundary? *Certainly* the Royall house, *possibly* one on the slope of Winter hill,— perhaps that which sheltered the Baroness Reidezel after Burgoyne's defeat at Saratoga,— a very few on Main street, toward Moore square, may also be.

Captain Hall's and the one adjoining, the brick house of Jonathan Wade, and the Magoun cottage, opposite First Parish church, are also authentic. A part of the modernized Home for the Aged, and perhaps its unpretentious neighbor across the brook, and perhaps another on the hill slope.

The Bradshaw house at Hastings lane and its three neighbors opposite, Dr. Wilkins' near Brooks street, and (may be) the Wyatt-Cheney cottage, opposite Warren, are all we can name. None of the several homes of the Brooks families are now in evidence; even the stately mansion (erected in 1802-6) disappeared eight years ago. Time, with its agents of neglect, decay and fire, has dealt harshly with all. How many Medford had that night we cannot say; perhaps a hundred is a liberal estimate. Of the outlying ones, the brick house of Captain Peter Tufts, that of Nathaniel Wade, the Rogers house on Cross street and the Richard Sprague house on old Ship street, we are sure of. There is also one at the end of Canal street, old when the canal was built, and possibly a few near Washington square, but with these we are not familiar. Here and there, an old cellar, nature is doing her best to obliterate, like that on High near Woburn street, are mute reminders of those days long gone.

But out of the homes that were there, whose occupants were aroused by Revere's midnight outcry, went fifty-nine determined men. From all directions they came—over the river and across the brooks, and up the hill they went, and across the river and the plain of Charlestown to old Menotomy, to follow and harass the invading host. Just where they made a stand and met the retreating foe, we cannot say. Perhaps they joined the Danvers company that made a forced march thither as it came through Medford. Who were they, do you ask? Listen! yes, give them the honor due the brave, but who can not, will nevermore, answer "*Here!*" Perhaps none here tonight bear these names, but let us stand while that old

Medford roll of honor is called: —

Captain Isaac Hall
Lieutenant Caleb Brooks
Ensign Stephen Hall
Sergeant Thomas Pritchard
Sergeant Isaac Tufts
Sergeant Moses Hall
Corporal John Tufts
Corporal Gershom Teel
Corporal Jonathan Greenleaf
Drummer Timothy Hall
Fifer William Farning
Privates: —
David Vinton
John Bucknam
Isaac Watson
Jonathan Laurence
Jonathan Davis
Abel Richardson
James Tufts, Jr.
Samuel Tufts, 3d
Andrew Floyd
Benjamin Floyd
Andrew Blanchard
Samuel Tufts
John Francis, Jr.
Paul Dexter
John Smith
Abel Butterfield
Josiah Cutter
John Kemp
Eleazer Putnam
James Bucknam, Jr.
Aaron Crowell
Jonathan Tufts
Benjamin Pierce
Thomas Wakefield
Jonathan Teel
Aaron Blanchard
Richard Cole
William Binford
Thomas Bradshaw
Daniel Tufts
Peter Tufts, Jr.
Ebenezer Tufts
Isaac Cooch
Daniel Conery
David Hadley
Jacob Bedin
Richard Paine
William Polley
Peter Conery
Joseph Clefton
Samuel Hadley, Jr.
Moses Hadley
John Callender
John Clarke
Andrew Bradshaw
Thomas Savels
Francis Hall
Benjamin Savils

On their return Madam Brooks (who had watched from her attic window as the red-coated host came back down the valley) had the big kettle swung over a fire out of doors and prepared chocolate for these Medford men's refreshing — the tea had gone into Boston harbor.

But one was mortally wounded, his comrades bore him home to die, he the "only son of his mother and she was a widow." Both youth and age was the toll taken from Medford that day. Of the latter, was a man of seventy who had one son among the Medford minute men, and another in the Danvers company. The latter, who bore

the father's name, was wounded and brought to Medford, whither his wife came to care for him until his recovery. But, killed at Menotomy, the father's lifeless body was brought to Medford, to the home from whence a few hours before he had gone to the fray. In his youth he had been in the expedition that captured the "Gibraltar of America," Louisburg. But (as Miss Wild says it) "though by age exempt, and having sons in the ranks, he showed his Putnam spunk and went with the rest." He had been for ten years a resident of Medford, his home probably in the valley opposite Medford's first schoolhouse.

Gold stars are placed on the service flags and on the memorials of today. Certainly they should be beside the names of these two, William Polley, Henry Putnam, who went out from their homes in Medford on that 19th of April, to their death, on the first Patriots' day.

MEDFORD PULPIT CUSHION.

We were recently shown an old letter which we think interesting because of its subject and date. It is written on a single sheet of the old style and size letter paper, and bears the following superscription:

To the Selectmen
of the Town of
Medford

The sheet, carefully folded and lastly tucked in, was sealed with red wax about the size of a nickel. It reads as follows:

Medford, July 19, 1771.

Gentlemen —

Mr Thompson will deliver you a Velvet Cushion. which I imported from London for the Desk of y^e^ Meeting House in this place, & which I beg may be accepted as a mark of y^e^ high regard I shall ever retain for the Town of Medford

I am w^th^ great respect
Gent^n^
Your most obed^t^
h'ble servt
W. Pepperell.

William Pepperell was of Kittery, Maine (then part of Massachusetts) and was son-in-law of Colonel Isaac Royall and had been father-in-law of Parson Turell for eleven years, the marriage of his daughter Jane to the Medford minister being her third matrimonial adventure. It seems that sixteen years before, Colonel Royall had given the town a Bible (folio) which proved an innovation. Received with thanks voted. Four years later a vote was passed for its public reading, and, as above seen, sixteen years later, and in a new and more stately meeting-house came the gift of the cushion of velvet on which to lay the Holy Book. Doubtless Pepperell's æsthetic tastes had been offended by the sight of the bare "desk" during his visits to Medford, and thus sought to better things.

Twenty-three years later the town purchased a "green velvet one," which after twenty years of use was replaced by another. This time in the general refurbishing, the pulpit itself changed color, and curtains were added. This was accomplished by the "women-folks," who took one man into their confidence, who donated a new pulpit Bible in two volumes.

And so for a century and a half innovations have come.

AN EDITOR'S TROUBLES.

We copy from an old diary of 1766:

> Never let me write again to the Printers of Boston News Papers for they are all Knaves, Liars, Villains to serve their Int'rest & when they appear most Friendly have the most of the Devil in their Hearts.

Moral — Patronize home industry. The REGISTER is printed in Medford.

Vol. XXIV.] [No. 2.

HISTORICAL REGISTER

JUNE, 1921

PUBLISHED BY THE
MEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

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FORM OF BEQUEST.

I give and bequeath to the Medford Historical Society, in the city of Medford, Mass., the sum of _____ Dollars for the general use and purposes of said Society.

(Signed) _____

J. C. MILLER, JR., PRINTER, MEDFORD.

TRINITY CHURCH
(METHODIST EPISCOPAL)
West Medford

SPIRE OF OLD ST. JOSEPH'S
(ROMAN CATHOLIC)
Formerly First Trinitarian, as seen
from rear of Andrew Hall House

FIRST PARISH CHURCH
(UNITARIAN)

WEST MEDFORD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

The Medford Historical Register.

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ANOTHER MEMORIAL DAY.

SIXTY years have passed since our nation's "foes of its own household" lifted treasonable hands for its destruction. Of the uprising for its defence we know. Ere a week had passed Medford men had rallied in response to the President's call and were on their way to the capital. They were in service first for three months, then "for three years or the war," and still others, for "rebellion widened into war on gigantic scale." Four years the contest raged; then came the day of Appomattox. The government of the people, by the people and for the people, though assured, was to experience the difficult and dangerous period of reconstruction. After four years of absence, the national flag was restored to Sumter's battlements; but two days later, the bullet of treason robbed the nation of its executive head and added to the gravity of the situation. Placed in the chair of state by a terrible tragedy, the new executive betrayed his high trust and made "treason . . . a crime before which all other crimes sink into insignificance," only "a difference of political opinion." Bleeding and sorely tried, after a war exceeding those of history, a new danger confronted the nation, that of unsound reconstruction.

In such a time the Grand Army of the Republic came into being and soon became national in extent. On August 21, 1868, the charter of the Medford Post was issued by the Grand Commander of the Department of Massachusetts. Its wording is, "To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting. Know ye, That, reposing full confidence in the fidelity and patriotism of Comrades: Godfrey Ryder, Jr., Samuel C. Lawrence,

Alfred Stephens, Henry H. D. Cushing, Silas F. Wild, Chris Plunkett, Elbridge B. Hartshorn, James A. Hervey, Samuel G. Jepson, John Hutchins, Thomas H. Gillard, J. H. Whitney, Charles H. Prentiss, Robert Ellis, Alvin R. Reed, they and their associates and successors are constituted a Post of the Grand Army of the Republic known as S. C. Lawrence Post, Number 66, and authorized to perform all acts necessary to the ends of the organization." Primarily a soldiers' fraternity, it at once became an institution of loyalty to the government and a school of patriotism, a mighty reserve force. Its name was well and fitly chosen, a *Grand* Army.

For fifty-three years Post 66, numbering in all upwards of four hundred, have here maintained the patriotic purpose of the organization. Fifty-two times their memorial services have been performed within the precincts of Oak Grove and the older burial places, and the comrades have reverently placed their country's flag and floral tribute over the sleeping dust of an ever increasing number. Retracing their steps through the shaded avenues and paths of the silent city, the last volley is fired. Its echoes ceased, "Taps" are sounded by the musicians, and as in benediction the cadences die away, the veterans resume the homeward march. Who, that has ever witnessed the scene, can wonder that though first called "Decoration Day," May 30 soon came to be "Memorial Day"? or that the veterans of the Civil War, along with many thoughtful and patriotic citizens, object to its secularization and light esteem? Though the language of their charter is conventional, none can say that the "confidence" was misplaced. Had occasion arisen, the Grand Army men would, to call, have answered "*Here!*"

After reaching its high tide of membership, it was inevitable that its numbers must decrease. It "has no recruiting office." During the past year, twelve — three in one recent week — have answered the last call, leaving but thirty-seven names on the roll. But one of these

appears on the charter, by coincidence, the last. Twenty-four, an equivalent of its resident membership, as follows,

Charles O. Burbank	Winslow Joyce
John L. Brockway	Benjamin P. Lewis
James H. Burpee	Charles W. Libby
John E. Barrows	Albert Mason
A. D. Chickering	Albert Patch
Nason B. Cunningham	Alvin R. Reed
G. A. Delesdernier	Milton F. Roberts
Thos. F. Dwyer	George K. Russell
W. F. Elsbree	Albert A. Samson
Willard B. Emery	Edward F. Smith
Isaac H. Gardner	George L. Stokell
Edgar A. Hall	Albert G. Webb

were in the ranks and followed the colors this year to honor those gone before. Though their ranks are thinning, their forms less erect and tread less firm, their loyalty to flag and country is true. That about a dozen is the average attendance at the fortnightly meeting is evidence of their interest, and though the flesh may be weak the spirit is still willing. Twenty-nine have served as commanders, and their enlarged portraits are arranged, in successive order, upon the wall of their assembly room, and a large collection of cabinet photos of members is there carefully arranged and preserved.

Much of interest to the patriotic citizen is there to be seen. The national colors, the flag of the Commonwealth, that of the Post have a conspicuous place. Post 66 has the service flag of the World War with one blue star, as one member has the distinction to have served in three wars.

In a brief visit we noticed the views of service in '61-5, and shuddered as we looked upon that of Andersonville and blushed for America's shame, for remember *that* was of our misguided brethren of the South, but still our brethren. Nearby a group of five who died in prison or on the march, one a boyish-looking face — some mothers' *boy*.

Behind the vice-commander's chair is a typical picture

of the private soldier of '61-5, that cannot fail to attract attention and command respect, the "Boy in Blue" in the long overcoat and small cap, with his musket at "Ready," and it bears this legend:

For what he did and dared, remember him today.

Two years ago the REGISTER gave the names of those who participated in the memorial service. It was their fiftieth and last *march.* Last year and this year and in the future Memorial Days there will be those who will deem it a privilege to convey them and vie with each other for the honor of doing so. This year, for the first time the return was by the Playstead road and High street, which was well. The city needs the object lesson.

In former years the exercises of the day were closed by a public gathering and patriotic address in the largest available auditorium. Who that heard it will ever forget that by Rev. E. C. Bridgham in 1905? The "comrades" formerly attended the regular morning service on preceding Sunday in some church by invitation, but their disabilities increasing by advancing years, the present arrangement has obtained. It speaks ill and looks badly for our boasted "civic pride," and worse for our patriotic spirit, that even reinforced by the affiliated organizations and the city government, the not overlarge Mystic church is far from being filled on the occasion. It should be crowded.

We remember the influence of this great Grand Army, and how in '98, South as well as North rallied under the *one* old flag for "Cuba libre," and again overseas for the world's safety, which includes our own national life and preservation. As reconstruction days followed our civil war, re-adjustment is following, all too slowly it may seem, the recent titanic struggle for world dominion. The danger is not past. What shall be the outcome? As in '61 the foe was of our own household, so today America has need to beware lest "the government of the people, by the people and for the people" be weakened and assailed by race prejudice, industrial unrest fostered

by selfish agitators, the oppressions of capital and hyphenated Americanisms of various names.

The Grand Army of the Republic has proved *true.*

BOGUS HISTORY.

The REGISTER has at various times alluded to *Medford Myths*, some of which, oft repeated, have been popularly and quite extensively accepted as veritable history.

We have hesitated a little in using the adjective of our caption, as its etymology is said, in the dictionary, to be "doubtful"; defined as "sham," "counterfeit," and applied to "anything spurious." One of these "myths," relating to a substantial brick house on old Ship street, was (so far as we know) unchallenged in Medford, and believed for forty years. Even though disputed and its fallacy clearly shown over twenty years ago, it is still in circulation, even repeated by our chief executive in public hearing of official character. More recently it appeared in a column of a Boston daily, which is a special feature of the paper. There, it did not pass unnoticed, as various letters to the "Nomad" proved. After reviewing several such in his column, he made this observation:

> It is very easy to start a legend in any place concerning a point in its ancient and uncertain history. Make a pleasant and plausible assumption about a place, weave a little story about it, put it into print, and you have "history." Thus, apparently, Rev. Charles Brooks wrote the history of the "old Cradock house." Up to that time it had been locally known as "the old Fort," from its solid construction and the loop holes in the attic. It took only a few years to transform the "old Fort" into the "Cradock mansion." All subsequent writers, until the students of the Historical Society began to look into the matter, simply repeated Mr. Brooks' assertion. What are "historians" for, except to follow one another's tracks and repeat one another's errors? But there is no use in real historical research unless you tell the truth; and though the gentlemen of the Medford Historical Society greatly regretted to dispel a treasured local illusion, they had to do it.

In the above quotation, the "Nomad" asks a perti-

nent query, and his somewhat conditional reply is well illustrated by Mr. Brooks' successor, Mr. Usher, in his work of 1886, a practical reprint of the "History" of 1855.

But who were the gentlemen of the Historical Society, the iconoclasts who assailed the bogus history, and established beyond doubt the identity of the house in question? In reply we name three: Hon. William Cushing Wait, in his article on "Maps of Medford," Mr. Walter H. Cushing, in "The Cradock Farm," both read at Society meetings and published in the REGISTER. Then, Mr. John H. Hooper took up the "burden of proof," by a careful search in the Middlesex Registry. The result of his work, read before the Society, preserved on our pages (Vol. VII, pp. 49-64), fixes the erection of the so-called "Cradock house" as at about 1680 (not 1634) at the instance of Peter Tufts (commonly called Captain Peter), a leading citizen of Medford at that time. Both gentlemen before named agree that Mr. Hooper's work fully establishes as a fact what they only made as assertion regarding the house.

But the question may be asked, "Why do people still continue to call it the Cradock house?" We can only reply that because of long continued habit by the many, and because comparatively few, even after twenty years, know the facts before stated.

The REGISTER (which of course has a limited circulation) Vol. XVIII, p. 60, on "Tufts Family Residences," by the editor, deals with this subject, supplementing Mr. Hooper's work, referring to the same for authoritative statement, and showing the fallacy of some newspaper criticism of his work.

Recently the same author has in a local paper dealt with the same subject, which latter evidently is the cause of the article quoted from above, and in which it is stated that prior to the publication of the History of Medford in 1855, the name of Cradock was not attached to that house.

But since the publication of the above quoted extract,

we have found the following on page 144, Vol. 48, of *New England Historical-Genealogical Register:*

THE OLDEST HOUSE IN THE COUNTRY

Is there any proof, above mere conjecture, that the Cradock house, so-called, in Medford, Mass., is the oldest in the country — or indeed that it was built by Gov. Cradock? If so, what and where is it?

The above was in 1867, but there was no reply to it in any way that we know of, probably for the best of reasons, viz., *there was no proof to be produced* by any.

And so the "pleasant and plausible assumption" was repeated over and over until it became commonly accepted. We have no thought that the historian had the least intent of writing a misleading, incorrect or bogus history, nor is the present writing to detract anything from the historic interest of the substantial old house, which stands preserved today because of its reputed "history."

HENRY PUTNAM OF MEDFORD.

Where in Medford did Henry Putnam live? Perhaps the following lines may partially answer this query: After his sale of his farm in Charlestown in 1765 (beyond the upper Mistick pond) Henry Putnam came to Medford and occupied a dwelling. He was then past the age of sixty years. In 1770 he purchased twenty-four acres of pasture land of William Bradshaw, the administrator of Jon^{a} Bradshaw's estate. This pasture adjoined no road but was bounded "*east* on Jonathan Patten, *north* on Ebenezer Brooks, Jr., *northwest* on heirs of Samuel Brooks, Jr., and *west* by land lately of the Whitmores." The consideration named was £68 ^{s}16. To reach it, the deed, dated in the tenth year of his majesty's reign, gave him "liberty of passing and repassing from the country road [probably Woburn street] to the premises in the usual way he or they shutting gates and bars." In the absence of plot or plan it is somewhat of a puzzle

to locate this pasture of Henry Putnam's. But a deed of April 20 next following, from the same Bradshaw to Ebenezer Turell, for the consideration of one hundred and fourteen pounds, conveyed twenty acres "upland and meadow *south* by a lane, *east* partly by a lane and partly by Timothy Newell, *north* partly by Jona. Patten and partly by Henry Putnam, *westerly* by lately Whitmores, *southwest* by country road or any other way reputed to be bounded." By comparison we conclude that this country road was Woburn street, and the Turell purchase lay just beyond the present Wyman street, in the angle of the old lane or wood road, still existing and bordered by elm trees extending to Winthrop, formerly Purchase street. The latter laid out and built nearly a century ago was filled to grade with material from Sugar Loaf hill. Noting the bounds of each conveyance, we come to the conclusion that Putnam's twenty-four-acre pasture lay between the present Sarah Fuller home and the grim old stone lion which lies crouched on the hill slope opposite the Sugar Loaf.

So much for his pasture, now for his dwelling. A deed from Samuel Brooks of Exeter, N. H., Gentleman Thomas Brooks of Medford, Gentleman and Edward Brooks of Medford, Clerk (for so the record reads),

for a proper and sufficient consideration have remised released and forever quitclaimed . . . unto Henry Putnam of Medford aforesaid Gentleman in the full and peacable possesion and seizien . . . all just right title and interest and demand whatsoever that we . . . ever had now have or ought to have by any means whatsoever in or to the estate hereafter mentioned namely the one half of a certain piece of land lying in Medford aforesaid and containing in the whole one acre and a half more or less together with the Dwelling House Barn Well &c thereon bounded *Southerly* by a highway *Easterly* on Jonathan Watson's land. *Northerly* on John Bishop's land. *Westerly* on land of Stephen Hall Esq^{r}.

[Dated Oct. 8. 1770. acknowledged before Simon Tufts J. P. June 2. 1772. recorded Aug. 1774.]

There were but few "highways" in Medford a century and a half ago. For this "acre and a half," to be thus bounded by "a highway" and by land of persons named,

it would seem most probable to lie in the valley of Meetinghouse brook, near and on the same side of the road as the present "Home for the Aged." At that time there was no Winthrop street. Parson Turell had purchased his house fifty years before, which was between present Rural avenue and Winthrop street. The original portion of the Puffer house (formerly Swan, now the "Home") built in 1689, was till 1872 nearer the street and to the brook, which left a sufficient space between for an acre and a half of narrow frontage (as was also Turell's). It seems more probable, however, that it was farther west on the lower ground, which was well situated for a "potter's shop and works," mentioned in the mortgage to John Andros. It is a matter of record that there was clay in the land directly opposite, and the high bank now in evidence suggests a probable excavation beside it.

A conveyance (mortgage) of the same bounded land, "two acres more or less, Dwelling house, barn, and Potter's shop and works thereon standing," was made by Putnam to "John Andros of Marblehead, Shoreman, for his Proper Debt." At Henry Putnam's request, Andros had become bound with him to Ann Devereaux of Marblehead in the sum of forty pounds, August 24, 1774.

Another of twenty pounds upon the pasture land was given by Putnam to Ebenezer Turell (the Medford minister) whose "upland and meadow" adjoined.

In August, 1773, Putnam sold his pew, "number 36," in the third meeting-house to Jonathan Patten for six pounds, describing it as the "forty-sixth choice." He was then sixty-seven years old, and probably for eight years a resident of Medford, and had a son, Eleazer, among the Medford minute-men; and another (Henry, Jr.) in the Danvers company that marched through Medford to Lexington. From his home in Medford (wherever it was) the old veteran of Louisburg, then seventy years of age, followed them to take part in the fray, leaving behind the wife Hannah he so romantically acquired

forty-eight years before. He was killed at old Menotomy by the retreating British. His son, Henry, Jr., was wounded and brought to Medford. The Medford wounded man, William Polley (also brought home) died, but Henry Putnam, Jr., recovered.

But wherever the dwelling house, barn and potter's shop may have been in 1774, no trace of them is to be found today. Neither do we know who owned the other "moiety," or half of the property. Putnam was styled in the pasture deed a "yeoman" of Medford, in the other deeds "gentleman." As the "potter's shop" is *not* mentioned in the deed to him, which was so carefully drawn as to include the well, and *is* in his mortgage to Andros, it would seem that it had been added during his tenure of the property, perhaps by the funds obtained by the mortgages above mentioned. In 1789 the executor of Turell noted among unpaid bonds that of Putnam for twenty pounds. Whether the son Eleazer was a potter by trade is unknown; possibly he was, and that in his declining years his father thus made effort to assist him. If this was the case, and our inference as to location of the Putnam home in Medford is correct, here is another line of business to add to central section of Medford in the Revolution.

THE "TAMA-HOURE-LAUNE."

In our most recent exchange, the *Washington Quarterly*, are copies of letters of Capt. Eliah Grimes of the brig *Owhyhee* written to Sprague & Marshall, Boston, merchants in the Pacific coast trade of a century ago. After mentioning much sickness and the death of several men, the captain names one man he "had decided to send back to the islands," one who came out in the *Tama-houre-laune*, and also says,

> they have cold pains in breast and head, which I think is owing in great measure to the brig being so fully salted; she is damp from one end to the other.

We do not find any reference to the brig *Owhyee* (former spelling of Hawaii) in the list of Medford-built vessels, and cannot be certain which "brig" was "so fully salted," but we find the names of two brigs built in 1820 in Medford by Thatcher Magoun for Josiah Marshall. One was the *Tama-houre-laune*, 162.63 tons, the other the *Jones*, 163.36 tons, the seventy-seventh and seventy-eighth in the notable list. A foot-note says:

> These brigs were put together: then taken to pieces and sent to the Sandwich Islands on board the *Thaddeus* commanded by Captain A. Blanchard of Medford.

By the very slight difference in their tonnage, it is evident the ordinary-named *Jones* was a duplicate of the long-named *Tama-houre-laune*, and even if built "knock-down," must have been a full freight for the *Thaddeus*, scarcely leaving room for that traditional cargo of "Missionaries and Medford rum." As only these two are mentioned as thus constructed, there must be some foundation of fact in the foot-note, the details of which we wish could be explained; the probability is that only the "frames" of these two brigs were here set up, properly fitted and duly marked before "taken to pieces." Arrived at the Sandwich islands, these Medford-built "frames," i.e., the timber skeletons, were reassembled, and the outer and inner skin or sheathing of planks of native wood, put on by the islanders, under the direction of ship-carpenters from Medford or Boston.

As ship building has been a "lost art" in Medford nearly a half century, a few words relative to the "salting" and "watering" of ships is opportune. After a vessel's framework was sheathed without and within with heavy planks, the space between the timbers was filled with water, which tested the joints, already caulked with oakum. This, in the later days of the Medford business, was done by a fire engine. When the town procured new engines, one of the old "hand tubs," the *J. Q. Adams*, was kept for "watering ships," as stated in the town report. Below the "bilge" (or curvature of the frames), a

block of wood was closely fitted in each intervening space. This was called a "salt stop," and prevented the salt (which was poured into the spaces between) passing into the bottom of the vessel, where it was not needed for the preservation of the wood, as it was in the sides above the varying "water line." Captain Grimes complained of the over-salting of his brig, which would indicate a lack of care taken.

We are told by an expert attendant at the old State House that the brig *Owhyee* was of 166.52 tons, built by John Wade at Boston in 1821. John Wade was previously master boat-builder at the Navy Yard. The Boston Directory of that year says his shipyard was at "Bullard & Hart's shipways, Lynn street," near Charles river bridge; and in 1822 he was, with his brother Francis, in the same location. The succeeding directories mention John Wade, who very likely was of Medford ancestry, as "boat-builder." Perhaps the *Owhyee*, a small brig, of similar size of the two built the previous year (knock-down as the modern term is) at Medford, was his first venture in a larger line of constructive work.

ANOTHER MOVING SCENE.

In a former issue the REGISTER alluded to "some unusual moving scenes," one, that of an old meeting-house through the town. We are now *moved* to note another, of historic interest:

More than a century ago a market-house resembling Faneuil Hall was built in Boston, at corner of Washington and Boylston streets, and called by the latter name. Its architect was the noted Charles Bulfinch. A two-storied steeple surmounted its roof: the first contained a one-dial clock, the second (open) a bell. We are told this was not built at the market's first erection but a little later. After about sixty years, to more fully utilize the valuable land, the structure was moved somewhat, and of course, the steeple with it. This was its

first moving experience, and in those days to move a brick building was considered a marvel. In 1888 increased land value caused its demolition, but taking another journey across Boston, the old steeple, clock and bell found a resting place on the Van Nostrand brewery near Sullivan square, until the spring of 1921. Then came its third removal, witnessed by people along the route through Somerville and Medford. The way to Arlington was along the "line of least resistance," longer but more level and also "crooked." Each story was carried separately by a six-horse team, crossing the river by Auburn street and Usher bridges to the new edifice of Calvary church (Methodist Episcopal) on Massachusetts avenue. There by means of a big spar derrick it was reassembled upon the church tower. This new structure, although of wood, in form and outline resembles King's Chapel of Boston. The latter, erected before Bulfinch's time, never had any surmounting turret or spire. But it is said that Bulfinch designed one for it, and also the colonnade around the tower which was later added thereto. A colonnade is a feature of the new Calvary church. At somebody's suggestion, the owners of the brewery, interested in its preservation, presented it to the church society, and according to the architect's plan it now forms a part of a pleasing and harmonious design. It is said that a suitable tablet giving its history is to be placed on the new structure. There should be one. An "old saw" reads something like this:

All things come to them that wait.

Arlington (centre) has waited long for a church, *i.e.*, meeting-house, of this particular denomination. Fifty years ago its adherents made a beginning, holding services in the town hall, continuing such for six years. (The writer has distinct remembrance of preparing plans of a somewhat smaller structure than the present in 1875.) The effort was unsuccessful and the society disbanded two years later.

Forty years later the effort was renewed and success made possible by a co-operation not existent in the older days. Then "every tub had to stand on its own bottom," and in this case cited, the bottom insecure.

Today the "Methodist Centenary" and "City Missionary and Church Extension Society" are helpful factors not to be lightly esteemed. Eight thousand, two hundred and fifty dollars is quite an assistance in a church building enterprise — we have the authorized figures before us.

Incidentally we note the recent material growth of the section where this church is located. Beyond and below it, twenty years ago, was an area badly affected by malaria. The building of Cradock dam across the Mystic at Medford changed all that, yet there are still those that grumble about the state tax.

The world moves, but it is uncommon for church steeples to do so three times as has this.

"THE DEVIL'S FIDDLE."

The year 1921 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the introduction of the "devil's fiddle" in Medford, and, in fact, in neighboring towns, for its discordant tones were everywhere heard.

"Never heard of it," does some one say? But any that *heard* it did not soon forget it. It was not a remarkably melodious instrument, any more than was the "horse fiddle" used in certain "Calithumpian serenades" that were an opprobrious feature of other days.

What bright or mischievous boy invented it (and where) cannot be told, but one April day Medford awoke to its realization; it couldn't do otherwise. Its construction was simple and its manufacture increased rapidly, as few materials were required. Given a tin can (such as spices or baking powder are sold in), or mother's pantry shelf afforded, a half-yard of string and a pinch of rosin, there were but few boys that couldn't make one.

A hole punched in the bottom (*geometrical* centre not necessary), a knot at one end of the string, which was inserted in said hole from within, and the instrument was complete. The urchins' fingers formed the bow by which it was played. They "rosined the bow" and made application *lengthwise the string*, and oh, the result! The sacred writer of ancient days wrote, "Make a joyful noise"—"Play skilfully on an instrument of ten strings"; but in this case the *one string* made noise anything but joyful, and increased by numbers and diverse in quality, no wonder that people attributed it to his Satanic majesty. The dignified editor of the *Medford Journal*, in his "valuable paper," made editorial comment of its appearance, saying that the next concert of the "Mustard Pot Band" would be on Saturday afternoon. It *may* have been, and again it may not. The craze soon died out. The manipulation of the string was too much for the cuticle and epidermis of the artists, and the sore fingers that resulted required the application of grandmother's salve and time to cure. So the devil's fiddle's discordant sounds soon ceased to distract people's ears. But there were those that *thought* about it, and found that two similar tins attached by one taut string would answer each other without injury to any finger tips — and four years later came the telephone.

But who amid the nerve distracting sounds of 1871 would have dared to prophecy what is fact in 1921, and here in Medford? "It has taken the telephone fifty years to reach its present state of perfection. Wireless telegraphy has been known only half as long, and the wireless telephone but a few years." Who would then have dared to predict that fifty years later the following bit of history would be found in public print?

> Radiophone concerts are given regularly every Wednesday evening at 8.30 . . . at Medford Hillside. Thousands of amateurs, within a hundred miles radius of Boston, are able to "listen in" on these wireless concerts.— *Boston Transcript, June 11, 1921.*

It is a far cry from the concert of the "Mustard Pot

Band," noted by Editor Usher, in which "devil's fiddles," big and little, screeched and squealed, to such as are noted above.

OUR ILLUSTRATION.

By an oversight the frontispiece of this issue was omitted in our last, as illustrative of the "*Towers of Medford*," and is now presented as "better late than never." The plate from which imprint is made is the property of the Historical Society, but has never before appeared on our pages. It will be observed that, with one exception, the views were secured when the trees were bare of foliage, thus showing more clearly the distinctive features. It was, however, impracticable to eliminate the unsightly poles and wires.

A few words relative to each may be of interest. The upper central cut preserves a view of the spire and steeple only of the earliest built of the group. As photography doesn't lie very much, it is evident that it was secured *subsequent* to the time of the brief dialogue referred to in our recent issue. The bare dials, closed louvers and Roman cross attest that fact. Built in 1860 (to replace the one burned in the same year) it was first that of the First Trinitarian Congregational Society, and later that of St. Joseph's (Roman Catholic) church. To the eye of the camera the building itself was eclipsed by the two upper stories of the Andrew Hall house, the elevated rear garden of which is in marked contrast to present conditions. While this spire is now gone, the building itself remains, the business home of Page & Curtin. This view also preserves for our sight a substantial feature of old-time dwelling construction, of which but few (including this) remain.

The lower right hand is that of the First Baptist, and was the next erected, in 1872, by its designer (also a member), John Brown. Its spire was built complete within the tower and raised to its position; and the open archway at its base forms a carriage porch.

The next oldest is that in the lower left, the Mystic Congregational, erected in 1876, the result of the merging of two churches. The building itself (of 1846) was so enlarged and remodeled that the original appearance is entirely absent in the present view. This was taken *subsequent* to some repair below the belfry and *after* the invasion of the foliated capitals of the columns by the English sparrows. To protect the worshipers from defilement these are enclosed in wire netting which detracts from their original beauty. The old Withington house (now gone) is seen at the right, and part of "Doctor's Row" (formerly "Rotten Row") at the left in this view.

Next in order of construction (upper left) was that of the First Parish (Unitarian) in 1894. When this group of views was made (for the purpose of illustration of some special Sunday services) the photographer mistook it for the Universalist church, which was the one desired. It, however, serves our purpose well. The main building is of stone, and by later thought the belfry was also so built. The small ventilating towers at the side are a special and pleasing feature, and the vines clinging to its walls add to its beauty. A large memorial window in its front is especially noticeable.

In the upper left is Trinity church (Methodist Episcopal), built in 1896 on the site selected in 1873. In April just prior to its erection, the former house of worship, erected in 1873 (the first in West Medford), was sold and removed. Its corner-stone, bearing the second date of 1896, was placed beneath this. Its early removal was a necessity, and preserved the trees on Holton street, to which a bit of history attaches: In the early '50's Mr. T. P. Smith (then owner) set out a row of elms on a proposed street (Minot by name) which was to follow the course of the canal just abandoned. At the construction of Boston avenue in '73, four of these, then on the land of Mr. Horace A. Breed, were dug out and thrown aside on his premises. Mr. B. said, "Mr. M., if

you'll set those trees out, you may have them." "Thank you very much, we will," was the reply. A worthy German citizen, a new comer, Mr. Charles Meyer, attended to the work — and well, too. Though four inches in size and several days out of ground, the transplanting was successful. *Just when* he did it we may not say, for at eight o'clock on Saturday evening they were lying by the capacious holes, but on Sunday morning when the worshippers came to the new church they were in place and sidewalk swept clean.

Mr. Smith passed away nearly seventy years ago, Mr. Breed and Mr. Meyer nearly forty, but we walk under the grateful shade of these trees today. But one shows in the view. The second, after twenty years, was affected by some pest, requiring its removal, and through the vacant space the sunlight streams through the great window, a memorial to others worthy but now gone.

The lower central view is that of the latest built (1904), the West Medford Congregational. It is of Weymouth seam-faced granite and its chapel is stucco.

Two dwellings erected in the '50's were moved backward to make place for it, and the granite steps at the sidewalk are those of the former house of worship.

In 1907 a tree, the second at left, probably planted in the '50's, was uprooted in a gale and fell against the smaller tower, but was fortunately removed without injury.

It must be understood the presentation of the above enumerated is not of the REGISTER's selection, but the utilization of a selection made by others and for another purpose. It would be our pleasure to present the dozen or more others that are in Medford, and doubtless many interesting bits of history might be therewith preserved.

ENTERTAINMENT.

We closed our last issue with a "filler" containing a quotation from the diary of Dr. Ames, the almanac maker of Dedham. Under conditions of today, we fear

he might use even stronger language relative to vexatious delay. The *Register* has only good to speak of its "printer."

The diary alluded to was written on the blank interleaving of the almanacs he prepared and published for many years, and is reproduced in the publication of the Dedham Historical Society, one of our exchanges, which we regret to say, ceased issue with its fourteenth volume. Now after a century and a half, the doctor's entries and observations are of much interest, and informing. Note this one, made on October 14, 1767:—

> Made an husking Entertainment. Possibly this leafe may last a Century & fall into the hands of some inquisitive Person for whose Entertainm't I will inform him that now There is a Custom amongst us of making an Entertainment at husking of Indian Corn whereto all the neighboring Swains are invited & after the Corn is finished they like the Hottentots give three Cheers or huzza's but cannot carry in the husks without a Rhum bottle they feign great Exertion but do nothing till Rhum enlivens them when all is done in a trice, then after a hearty Meal about 10 at night they go to their pastimes

Evidently the diarist foresaw that in a century customs might change, and also the use of words. So he added more to his original entry, also using the word entertainment as satisfaction of curiosity and information to the inquisitive. Entertainment has come to be a many-sided word. In later days than those, such occasions were known as "bees," perhaps because of the *swarms* of people that came and their *busy* work. There were on occasion raising, stone, paring or apple, and quilting bees.

To eke out the parson's salary a donation bee was the precursor of the modern pound party; while the spelling bee lacked the co-operative work feature.

But such gatherings were a sort of "give and take" affair. Dr. Ames invited "all the neighboring swains" to make a short job of stripping the husks from his gathered corn; but (in the quaint saying of another), "didn't get any more out of a dry well than was put in," as is

proven by the "Rhum-bottle" and "hearty Meal," both of his furnishing.

Then came another feature of the occasion, "their pastimes," the playing of games and the country dance, and seeing the girls safely home. It was all a part of the "Entertainment."

THE DOCTOR'S VISIT.

This same Dr. Ames expressed himself in quite caustic terms regarding some practitioners. But on July 20 (1767) he made a call on one, thus noted:

> Went Dr. Gardner's at Milton drank excellent Wine made of Cherries thus 50 lb. of good Cherries stoned, 37 lb of Sugar and Water enough to make the whole into the Quantity of half a Barrell.
>
> N. B. you put in the whole Cherries except the Stones

The above must have been Milton "*home brew*" (equally common in Medford) and seemed to have impressed him favorably. What he might say today is another matter.

1621 — TERCENTENARY NOTE — 1921.

As this REGISTER comes to hand a tercentenary pageant is on at Plymouth. Our Historical Society will note a Medford tercentenary in September next — that of first exploration of our territory by white men, an event of which scant notice has been taken in the past.

"THE MARCH OF MILES STANDISH"

will be the subject of the evening. Beside the original story, several papers relative thereto will be read, and the doughty warrior will be shown at the head "of his valorous army."

With all the groundwork of a pageant, we must content ourselves with the above observance, but let it be an interesting one.

Vol. XXIV.] [No. 3.

HISTORICAL REGISTER

September, 1921

PUBLISHED BY THE

MEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

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FORM OF BEQUEST.

I give and bequeath to the Medford Historical Society, in the city of Medford, Mass., the sum of _____ Dollars for the general use and purposes of said Society.

(Signed) _____

J. C. MILLER, JR., PRINTER, MEDFORD.

CONSTABLE RICHARD SPRAGUE'S HOUSE. BUILT 1729

The Medford Historical Register.

Vol. XXIV. SEPTEMBER, 1921. No. 3.

OUR AUTOBIOGRAPHY.

THE Medford Historical Society has for twenty-five years been engaged in the preservation and dissemination of the history of Medford. It has seemed advisable to devote some space in this issue of its REGISTER to its own history, and call public attention thereto.

On April 16, 1896, a printed circular bearing the names of seventeen Medford citizens was sent out, inviting people to a gathering in the old Simpson tavern on April 22. In response fifty-four attended, and the desirability of organizing a historical society was discussed.

Another meeting was held on May 8, and steps taken to incorporate. On May 22 its charter was issued by the secretary of the commonwealth, and on May 23 the first stated meeting was held in the Unitarian vestry.

The next meeting (of record) was on November 18, and was held in the old Francis house, numbered two Ashland street.

That the new Society began with enthusiasm is evidenced by the fact that during the week of October 14 to 20 a "Historic Festival" or pageant, called "On the Banks of the Mystic," was held in the Opera House. The idea was a novel one and was favorably received by the public, as shown by its liberal patronage and large attendance. The committee in charge, though for a time startled by its temerity in its production because of the great expense involved, was happy at its close, and at that November meeting turned into the Society's treasury the net proceeds of $1,018.21.

The Society hired the Francis house, which had a little historic interest, having been the home of Convers

Francis, the originator of the Medford cracker, and also the birthplace of his talented daughter and authoress, Lydia Maria Child. It also made some repair and refitted it for Society use, and furnished the same.

In 1902 the property was placed in the market for sale and was then purchased by the Society for $4,000.00. Of this amount $1,000 was paid in cash, and the remainder provided for by a mortgage and the favorable interest rate of four per cent.

But prior to this purchase the various expenses had absorbed the proceeds of the historic festival already alluded to, and several efforts of lesser magnitude had been unremunerative.

The cash payment was the result, mostly, of donations for that specific purpose, secured mainly through the efforts of President David Henry Brown.

The meetings of the Society have been on the third Monday in the months from October to May inclusive, and for several years a Saturday evening course of addresses was added to the regular meetings. At nearly all meetings, other than the annual, addresses have been given and papers read relating to Medford, its history, institutions and people. Many of these have been reproduced in the Society's quarterly publication, the Historical Register. Its issue was begun in 1897 for that express purpose, and its twenty-four volumes represent a labor of love on the part of its editors and contributors, and contain information of Medford found nowhere else. By its exchange list with other societies it is constantly adding their publications to the Society's library, thus making available sources of information.

The existence of the Society started the effort for the preservation of the Royall house, and also Medford's two hundred and seventy-fifth anniversary celebration, so successfully observed. At that time former President Hooper prepared a brief history of Medford, which was published by the city's committee (composed of members of the Society), together with a full report of the exercises of the week.

The questions may be asked, "How is the Society's work appreciated by the community it serves, and how is it sustained, either financially or otherwise?"

We reply, its only revenue is its annual dues of $1.00 from each member. It reached its high-tide of membership in 1902, about two hundred and fifty, and now numbers one hundred and fifty-one. It has no endowment whatever, and in all its twenty-five years has never had any *bequest* of funds, and contrary to a prevailing notion, has never had a penny of municipal assistance. Thus it will be seen that its efforts have been heroic and "a labor of love." Its current and publication expenses for several years exceeded the annual income, and the deficit was covered by donations of interested members. In 1914 the latter were insufficient, and a new administration found itself with a debt of over one hundred dollars and the problem of much-needed repairs on the building. The latter seeming impractical, the property was sold and temporary quarters secured.

The enterprise of securing a new and permanent home was begun in the summer of 1916, and is so recent as to require little mention in detail. Land was purchased of the city of Medford (at the assessors' valuation, which was $629.00), and paid for out of the net amount received from the sale of the old property, the balance, $371.00 (with accrued interest) being turned into the building fund. Thus was conserved the amount originally invested in its former home.

None too soon was this enterprise begun, as circumstances proved. It would be a pleasure to record that the people of Medford responded liberally and extended a helping hand, but the fact remains that scarcely more than a dozen people outside the Society's membership responded to its appeal. Then came the war time, and during the numerous "drives" for funds the Society had no chance. At the earliest possible moment, without waiting for the building's completion, the Society moved in, ceasing its outlay for rent and reducing its expenses

to a minimum. To the casual observer it appears complete, but in the stress of war time and over-topping prices there remain some essential fixtures yet to be secured. It has been suggested several times to get a mortgage to do these things, but the Directors have wisely refrained therefrom, remembering that interest payments come with inconvenient frequency.

The new home on Governors avenue *never* has had such ornament (?) and whatever problems of administration the Society may have, arise not from any debt upon its home, but rather from the lack of public interest in its important work.

To the meetings of the Society every member is entitled to bring friends, with the thought that such may become interested and become members. A few have thus in the past. Like other similar societies, many of its members rarely attend the meetings, but are prompt in remitting their annual dues to the Treasurer. This is, of course, a help, but the burden of sustaining the interest in the stated meetings and the management of affairs falls upon the few. To secure a larger membership and interested working force is an ever-pressing need to enable it to *better* prosecute its work.

One of our number on reading the foregoing pages remarked, "It is not an appeal to save a sinking ship, *but for a working crew.*"

Given a larger membership means better support, added interest and better service in coming years.

Medford has changed much in the recent years. Remembering Abraham Lincoln's famous remark, we are confident the good sense of its people will, in time, assert itself. History is in the making. Will the Medford people, especially those to whom this REGISTER specially comes, join us in our effort?

AN OPEN LETTER.

Dear Sir or Madam: —

The Medford Historical Society wishes you to become acquainted with its work and with its publication. To this end extra numbers of this issue have been printed, and one sent you. Please accept the same, examine it carefully, tell your friends about it, and otherwise give it publicity.

Not all the Society's members are subscribers. Should you chance to be a non-subscribing member, we trust you will consider it favorably and add your name to its list.

Perhaps you may not have heard of or seen the Register before, so to you it makes its best bow and hopes to create a favorable impression. In its sending, the Publication Committee puts you under no obligation, but will be pleased to count your name among its patrons to whom it makes its quarterly visits, now nearly one hundred.

Excepting that some space in this number is devoted to Society needs and news, the present issue may be taken as a sample. Its managers are gratified because of its rank among its compeers, and that it is distinctively a Medford (from sanctum to press) production of Medford's history. Its twenty-three completed volumes total two thousand four hundred and twenty pages, exclusive of illustrations, title pages, index and advertisements. With a few exceptions (for which courtesy is acknowledged) the illustrations were made expressly for its use, and the half-tone cuts are the property of the Society. Some issues are now out of print and thus very rare. The Society has but a few *complete sets* for sale. These cannot be broken, but with the few exceptions back numbers to some extent can be procured.

The Register contains reliable accounts of Medford people, its institutions, churches, schools, industries and events, compiled from *authentic* sources. This has been

done by Medford people in a labor of love for their old home town. To accomplish this has been a work of years, slow and painstaking.

Many of the contributors to the REGISTER's pages have now passed on, but their work remains. Others are relaxing their effort. Perhaps among those to whom this special issue comes there may be some who may take their places by sending to the Editor some personal observation of their home city.

There should be many, however, to show their appreciation of the work of others in the past, and enable the Society, by their support, to maintain its publication. During all the stress of advanced costs its price has not been raised, and at times deficits in its expense account have been met by interested friends, but we can no longer count on these, hence the liberty we take in thus calling your attention to our

HISTORICAL REGISTER.

TROUBLES OF A MEDFORD CHURCHMAN.

In these recent tercentenary days much has been said of the Puritan sacrifice and struggle for religious liberty. Some of the speakers have seemed to forget that there was a difference between the Pilgrims of Plymouth and the Puritans of Boston in their ideas of toleration. The one had been tolerated in Holland, the other would tolerate none dissenting from their views, and early became dominant in New England.

How fared it with the Baptists, the Quakers, or those who held to the liturgical worship of the Church of England? In the colony's history what they endured is unpleasant to read. In Medford's history little is written or known. Mr. Brooks made no specific local mention thereof, but Mr. Usher alludes to one case of clash between a Medford churchman and an officer of the law. His story is quoted quite fully by Mr. Hollis, the chronicler of Grace Church (REGISTER, Vol. V, p. 25). Of this

case we have never seen any other account in American print, and are left in doubt as to its final outcome. The Medford records (Vol. 2, p. 314, 315, 316) contain a list of one hundred and twelve names, rated (*i.e.*, assessed) the sum of "One hundred Pounds being ye Ministers Rate for ye year 1732." This list was committed to the constable the third of July for collection and payment by him to the treasurer by the fifteenth of October next ensuing.

Richard Sprague, who two years before had erected a substantial house just out from the market-place, "on the way to Blanchard's,"* was the constable, and the minister whose salary he was thus to collect was Ebenezer Turell. But there was *one* man in Medford that refused to pay his rate because he was of the English Church.

The tax list of that time is divided into three classifications. Space forbids its entire reproduction, but here are four of its names:—

	Heads	Real	Personal Estate & Faculty
Thomas Brooks	0-11-0	———	———
Peter Seccomb	1-13-0	1-0-3	1-0-8
Richard Sprague	1-13-0	0-7-6	0-3-5
Matthew Ellis	———	1-15-3	0-4-9

We do not quite understand how the first (above named) was only assessed a "head" or poll tax, or how the latter, a resident, nothing for his head. But he had some "faculty," as Constable Sprague found when he presented that Medford tax bill so long ago. Upon persistent refusal to pay toward the salary of Parson Turell, the said Matthew Ellis was by Constable Sprague speedily lodged "in His Majesty's gaol." How long he remained in durance vile we may not say, but on paying the tax and added costs he was released.

Then he took up the battle for religious freedom by bringing an action in court against Sprague "for assaulting, beating, wounding and imprisoning him, and detaining him in prison till he paid Sprague a fine of

*See Frontispiece.

£3-1*s*." At a subsequent town meeting Andrew Hall was chosen constable, and the record says (page 328) "payed for not serving five pounds," and Joseph Thompson was chosen and qualified. On the twenty-eighth of November, 1733, the selectmen directed him to warn a town meeting to be held on December 4, 1733, at 1 P.M.

> To know what method they will take with respect to sute in the Law Commenced against Richard Sprague the last years Constable by Matthew Ellis of Medford.

It appears (by the Massachusetts Archives) that Ellis lost his case in the Inferior Court on December 11, and appealed to the Superior Court. The town meeting alluded to had adjourned to December 18 at 12 o'clock. It was then

> Put to Vote, whether the Town will reamburſt Richard Sprague his Reaſonable charges in managing the Law Sute commenced against him by Matthew Ellis, he bringing in a just account to the Town thereof. Voted in the affirmative. Benj. Willis Town Clk.

Thus it appears that the fight was on, and reinforcements were coming to the aid of Sprague, erstwhile constable of Medford. The fame of the case spread, and in other towns men elected constables were shy of accepting office because of Sprague's experience.

At the Superior Court, on January 29 and July 30, 1734, Ellis fared no better, but "was cast," *i.e.*, judgment was against him. But he had good fighting qualities, and appealed to the king for a hearing.

The Medford selectmen hearing of this called a meeting

> to know the mind of the town . . . and chuse some sutable to assist in that affair . . . or see what the town shall see meet to do.

Seven persons were chosen, but farther than that we find nothing in Medford records.

The conflict was next in the Provincial legislature, but there was "a long-name society" across the water which evidently had a part in it, as it continued for several years.

From "Historical Papers," page 317 (New England Historical and Genealogical Society, Boston) we reproduce —

MATTHEW ELLIS TO THE SOCIETY.

To the Honourable the Society for the Propogation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. The humble Petition of Matthew Ellis of New England, Husbandman, a Member of the Church of England, as by Law Established

SHEWETH

That your Petitioner being informed that this Honorable Society was desirous to have the power of the Independents in New England, which they used to oblige the Members of the Church of England to contribute to the maintenance of dissenting teachers or preachers lawfully examined into it, being apprehended to the contrary to the intent of the New England Charter, your petitioner upon whom a small sum of 40^{s} N. England money was levied for the maintenace of a dissenting teacher, did bring his action in N. England, against one Sprague who levyed such sum in order to try the right and having no benefit by that Action in New England, your pet^{rs} there demanded an Appeal to his Majesty in Council, but was there refused it.

That an Application being made on your Petitioner's behalf to this Honourable Society some time since, that you would be pleased to take the said case under your care as the same might procure a judicial determination & tend to settle that great point.

The Society as your Petitioner is informed verbally declares taking the same upon you in the situation it then was, or until application to his Majesty, an Appeal should be actually allowed here so that the mere point of right might come in question

But declared as your Petitioner humbly apprehends that when your Petit^{r} should have obtained liberty to appeal your Petit^{r} might then hope for assistance of this Society.

That thereupon your Petitioner hath at considerable expense to himself (far more than his own particular right is concerned) obtained Liberty to appeal to his Majesty in Council, but is unable to bear the further expense of prosecuting the same, and the rather so since the Province of the Massachusetts Bay have made the Cause of the Respondent Sprague their own and have undertaken the defence thereof for him portending to be a matter of high concern to their Province

Your Petitioner therefore submits his Case to this Honorable Society, and humbly prays such relief to himself and therein to the Members of the Church of England in general as this Society shall think proper

And as in Duty bound shall Pray.

We quote also the following from the Massachusetts Archives: —

From Province Laws, p. 210, Chap. 194 (First Session).

A petition of Richard Sprague, late constable of Medford in county of Middlesex. Showing that in the year 1733 Mathew Ellis of that Town was assessed Forty shillings as a part of a Tax for the support of the Minister there which the said Ellis Refusing to pay, the Memorialist, Agreeably to his Warrant, Committed him to his Majesty's Goal in said County; whereupon the said Ellis brought his Action of assault Against the Memorialist, charging his damage at three hundred pounds Sterling; in which Action he was Cast in the Inf^r and Superiour Court; Upon which he Claimed his Appeal to his Majesty in Council, which the judges thought him not Entitled to; But upon their denyal the said Ellis, Applying to his Majesty, Obtained his Order in Council for the hearing of his Appeal; and the Memorialist is Accordingly Notified to Answer it; And for as much as the Memorialist has done nothing in this Affair but in obedience to the Laws of this Province: Therefore praying that he may be freed from any further Trouble and Charge in the Affair or otherwise Relieved.

the Com^tee on the petition of Richard Sprague Reported the draught of a letter to Mr Agent Wilks on that Subject which was read and accepted in both Houses and signed by the Governour. [Passed Jan. 3, 1736.]

Page 526 (Second Session).

A petition of Richard Sprague: Praying for some allowance from this Court for his expence occasioned by a complaint of Matthew Ellis to the King and Council for the Petitioners destraynning on him for his Tax, as he was Constable of Medford

Read and in answer to the Petition

Voted, that the sum of Fifteen pounds nineteen shillings and two pence be granted and allowed to be paid out of the publick Treasury of the new Tenour Bills to the Petitioner Richard Sprague in full satisfaction of and to reimburse him for his time trouble and expence in defence of the affair within mentioned [Passed Dec. 21, 1738-9.]

In Council Read and Concurred

Consented to J. Belcher

We are informed that "the [original] petition of Richard Sprague is not found in the Archives," and that on July 1, 1737,

Order on the recommendation of the Committee that the appeal be admitted on the usual security, and that Ellis be allowed copies of the proceeding under the Seal of the Province, on paying the usual fees.

July 30, 1737. Ellis's petition for an early hearing referred to the Committee for Appeals.

Aug. 14, 1737. Committee appointed Feb. 25 to hear the appeal.

As on May 16, 1737, Ellis is styled as "late of Medford, husbandman," it is presumable that he had then removed. Though he was taxed for real estate, we have been unable to find where in Medford he resided. We find that in 1733–34

John Whitmore, Jonathan Hall and Jon[a] Bradshaw be Depeud [deputed?] to vew the Highways by Matthew Ellifes and make Report to the Town what they Judg Mr. Ellis should have allowed him for moving Som Large Rocks in the Country Road nearby his house in sd. Town and Report be made at the adjournment of this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned to seven o'clock of that evening at the house of John Bradshaw. We look in vain for the committee's report, and greatly fear the pious deacons on the committee allowed their distate for their churchman's non-conformity to warp their judgment in the large rocks matter. They might at least have reported.

We have been unable to find trace of Ellis at the Registry of Deeds, and thus to fix his location, nor do we know how long he lived in Medford. From the meagre data we conclude that he did two good things — improvement of the highway, and (in the courage of his convictions) helped along the coming of the enjoyment of religious liberty in Medford.

LOCAL HISTORY IN A BARBER'S SHOP.

"In hell there are no barber's shops." Such is a remark attributed by historian Brooks to the Medford minister of a century ago. We fancy the assertion to be the result of a course of reasoning as to "human depravity," rather than of any personal search, by Doctor Osgood. *Per contra*, it would be of interest had the good doctor made note of the number of such shops then in Medford. As the town's minister for fifty years, he had been something of an autocrat, and was not particularly noted for soft speeches. We wonder a little what would have happened had he been in his prime when Rev. Josiah Bracket came up from Charlestown to preach to some people, not of "the standing order," in a building called "the college." Considering his sermon against the Malden Baptists, we fear it would have been "Let him be anathema, and the house that they shall build come to naught." Meeting in various places for over five years, those people succeeded, in 1828, in erecting a house of worship on the "lane leading from Malden road to the ship yard." In 1922 their successors, the First Methodist Episcopal Church, will observe its centennial and in its *fourth* house of worship, while the *first* still remains — a dwelling-house, and now contains a "barber's shop." Changes made to fit it for such use revealed features of construction, and started search into its history. Prior to this, the only allusions to it we have seen in print are in the REGISTER, Vol. XII, p. 2, and an *occasional* paper (1878) called *The Half Century*. Neither of these contain any account of the dedication, though the same was unique in its features and a novelty in Medford.

People are wont to think of the predecessor of the Mystic Church as the Second Church of Medford. It *was* the Second *Congregational*, but the First Methodist Episcopal is the *second church in Medford*, its beginning was fifteen months the earlier. To the edifice built by Galen James and his associates, Second (or First Trinitarian) Congregational, must be accorded the record of

the first *dedication* on September 1, 1824 — about three and one-half years prior to that of the Methodist structure.

In the library of the New England Conference Historical Society, in *Christian Advocate*, February 22, 1828, we find —

On Thursday, Feb. 7, the first Methodist Episcopal Church in Medford, Mass., was dedicated to the worship of God. The order of exercises commenced with select music; which was followed by the introductory prayer by the Rev. Enoch Mudge. Select scriptures were read by the Rev. Bishop Hedding — Dedicatory Poem — The dedicatory prayer was made by the Rev. Bishop. The dedicatory sermon was by the Rev. J. [ohn] N. [ewland] Maffit Two original hymns written for the occasion by the Rev. J. N. Maffit, were sung with great propriety and musical effect, one previous to the address and the other following—Concluding prayer by the Rev. T. C. Pierce and benediction by the Rev. Mr. Bracket.

The concourse of people was too great to find accommodation in the new church: and after the above services had been attended in it, the Congregational church of which the Rev. Mr. Warner is pastor, in a spirit of Christian fellowship politely offered the accommodation of their meetinghouse in which the Rev. Mr. Maffit delivered the sermon that had been prepared as the dedication sermon. The text was in Haggai II, 7. "And I will fill this house with glory, saith the Lord of hosts." The services were solemn, appropriate and affecting. Union of feeling and heavenly charity mingled in the notes of prayer, and animated the skilful and harmonious strains of praise.

The following is one of the original hymns: —

The gorgeous temples, Lord, are thine,
That bow beneath a thousand years;
Whose walls dark ivy wreaths entwine —
Whose aisles are worn with mourners' tears.

And there are towers that rise to thee
Beyond the sapphire arch of heaven —
The temples of eternity
To thy redeemed children given.

Yet from the starry halls of light
Thy spirit wings its viewless way,
And comes in power and glory bright
To fill these humble walls today.

Today as if in heaven we sing
And raise the song of sacred praise
Until his hallowed court shall ring
With our triumphant grateful lays.

We praise thee, Jesus, that thy name
Hath waked a feeble echo here,
And kindled in our souls a flame
To burn through heaven's eternal years.

Oh, triumph in the Holy One,
Whose hand hath led us safe along,
Until these temple walls were done,
Oh, raise to heaven a glorious song.

It certainly was an event worth recording, though "a day of small things" in the beginning of Medford Methodism, but the fine courtesy of that long-ago day is pleasant to read. John Newland Maffit was the Boston minister, and a wonderful pulpit orator and poet of no mean ability. Enoch Mudge was also a prominent preacher, and T. C. Pierce was presiding elder.

But what a contrast there must have been in the appearance of the two houses of worship. Stately and grand, with imposing colonnade and steeple, the equal of any for miles around, was the one by the river's side; the other, twenty by forty feet and fourteen feet high, utterly devoid of any ornamental finish, with no roof cornice, its walls, as well as roof, shingled, with two tiers of small windows for light and ventilation, and one door for entrance in the end.

It was probably innocent of paint, also. The interior was just one bare room, and may have been plastered. If it was heated at all (remember there never was any stove in a Medford meeting-house till 1820 or 1821) the stove was in the corner near the door, and fifty feet of necessary funnel hung under the ceiling entered a little chimney in the rear end of the roof. The seats were plain wooden benches extending from the aisle to either wall. The pulpit, very plain, with perhaps a hinged shelf in front for communion table, was on a low platform, around the sides of which was a rail, at which the communicants knelt, this last an innovation in Medford. It was one of the "ten idols" the standing order of theocratic New England had been combating for two centuries. Two others were church government by bishops

and dedication of churches. Here was Medford invaded by three, the advance guard of the ten. Historian Brooks is careful to state that the house of the Congregationalist was dedicated "to Father, Son and Holy Ghost." They seemed to thus have admitted the "seventh idol," but the others they had no use for.

But the historian makes no mention whatever of this old church building of 1828, and would have the reader think there was no Methodist church in Medford until 1843. Just how long this building was used we cannot say, nor yet with certainty when it was moved to its present site, but let us see what the barber's shop alteration reveals.

Made into a "double house," the entrance doors were in the sides, with a large room in either corner. In the recent change the front and floor of one front room was removed. This revealed the fact that the building had been cut in two lengthwise, one half moved aside, and *twelve feet built in*, making its present width thirty-two feet. Like the old-time framing, the side sills are ten inches square, the cross timbers (about four feet apart) are nine inches square and all of hewed pine timber. These support the floor joists of oak, and all sound and good for another century. (Those just removed were replaced at a lower level, that of the addition in front forming the barber's shop.) A second floor was put into the building when enlarged, also two chimneys, three by four feet, containing fireplaces. The old windows of eight by ten glass were all utilized, but in the change from church to dwelling the front was covered with clapboards. To an observant builder there was much of interest in its examination, but one thing was especially noticeable. The frame of the original building, so far as could be seen (and perhaps the boards), was of lumber that had been used in some *earlier* construction. We have mentioned its plainness and lack of ornament. The Methodists of that day had not "money to burn," and this once-used material is proof of it. Those old timbers

told us something of the efforts of those few men and women of a century ago, and the privations they endured and sacrifices they made to obtain the same liberty that the fathers sought two hundred years before. We learned something in the prospective barber shop on Salem Street near Washington Square.

ANOTHER TERCENTENARY NOTE.

A certain interest attaches to the exploration and to settlement of immigrants in a new country. In recent days multitudes have visited Plymouth to see the historic rock where the Pilgrims landed, and to tread ground on which they found a home. An interesting pageant was enacted, with historical lessons that must have made a deep impression on the minds of many of the visitors. And just now as we write, an enduring reminder has been dedicated,— the bronze figure of Massasoit, the Indian king, who regarded his treaty as more than "a scrap of paper."

We doubt, however, if in all the exercises there was any allusion to an episode that occurred in the Pilgrim adventure and was partly enacted on our own Medford soil. We have seen fit to call it "The March of Miles Standish."

In 1905 Medford had a festival week in recognition of its two hundred and seventy-fifth anniversary of settlement. It was about *two years behind time*, but a very successful and interesting one. But how about the *discovery* of Medford territory by white men, which preceded the actual settlement? And what of the race that then inhabited it, and had *ab-origine* from the beginning? Rightly named were they — aborigines.

Nearly a century ago a Boston orator (whose effort was so popular that six editions of the oration were printed in rapid succession) on Independence Day said

> Here lived and loved another race of beings Beneath the same sun that rolls over your head, the Indian hunter pursued the pant-

ing deer; gazing on the same moon that smiles for you, the Indian lover wooed his dusky mate. . . . And all of this has passed away. Across the ocean came a pilgrim bark, bearing the seeds of life and death. The former were sown for you; the latter sprang up in the path of the simple native

At the time Charles Sprague uttered those words (probably in Faneuil Hall), Medford was a little town of fifteen hundred people, but had furnished a governor of the commonwealth for seven years. Now a cosmopolitan city of over forty thousand, with "civic pride" little in evidence, and an ever increasing tax-rate, it may be that the seeds of death the orator mentioned are ripening to harvest.

Medford had a wonderful opportunity to celebrate a tercentenary, for those seeds (of both kinds) were strewn on what is now its soil, on *September twenty-first, 1621*, by "Standish the stalwart and eight of his valorous army, led by Indian guide."

Little note has been made of this historic fact in recent years and it has been well-nigh forgotten. But there is the testimony of Bradford, also of the author of "Mourt's Relation," both written within a few years of the time, and fortunately preserved.

What a pageant might be enacted in the streets of Medford of that march "in Armes up in the Countery," and how realistic and educational might be a representation of the scenes of that day of discovery, seven years before Medford's settlement.

It is the purpose of the Historical Society, as hinted at in the REGISTER's last issue, to make note of this event at its coming meeting, and perhaps in a later issue may be some account thereof.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

All hail to your determination to celebrate another tercentenary, this time Medford's own affair, commemorating its first view by the white men, and Pilgrims at that!

Responding to your question as to what I know or think about the visit of Miles Standish to these parts in September, 1621 — well, I didn't know much, but your request set me to reading, as I suppose you expected it to do. And I began to appreciate something of the amount of special skill and patch-work labor necessary to enable you even to ask the question. But our interest in Medford makes it quite worth while to follow out your leads as to the first white men on the site of our city, and how they came to be there.

In the first place, none of the chroniclers of the day says directly that Standish was on the expedition anyway. Governor Bradford says they dispatched on September 18, ten men with Squanto for their guide. He names no one else. The author of "Mourt's Relation" gives no other names. But the latter does speak of the "Captaine," and we are well persuaded that no such expedition would have sallied forth during his lifetime without the leadership of that doughty little pepperpot. Furthermore, as the writer of the "Relation" speaks always of "our" doings in the expedition, I suppose that we may conclude that Winslow was of the party — of course, assuming that the future governor wrote this portion of the history.

Apparently it is from the "Relation," mainly, that we must get particulars of the journey: how that, setting forth in the shallop on the eighteenth, they found the way longer than they expected (being as they estimated it close to twenty leagues), so that they did not arrive within the bay until late on the nineteenth; how they landed on the twentieth on one side of the bay, where they made a treaty with Obbatinewat, after which they sailed across the bay, and there anchoring, slept once more aboard ship; then on the twenty-first, how they made afoot their memorable journey which particularly interests us, to the hill where Nanepashemit had lived, thence to the fort in the bottom lands, and a mile further on to fort *on* the hill where Nanepashemit was killed.

As to my own reflections thereon, two or three items stand prominently forth. How came the Pilgrims to be here at this time? Bradford says the party was sent to spy out and report upon the country of the Massachusetts, and to make a peace treaty with that tribe, by whom they had been more or less disturbed, and to whom Squanto gave a bad name. Incidentally, never forgetting the main chance, they were to do such trading as they found practicable with the natives.

Our Pilgrim forbears seem to have displayed towards their Indian neighbors no thought of conquest or of hostility of any kind, seeking, as it appears, rather a peaceful co-operation and friendliness, wherein they certainly showed as much wisdom as philanthropy.

And if they lost no opportunity for a bargain, nevertheless their commercial operations seem to have been conducted with the most scrupulous conscientiousness. My own feeling is that this quality had as great a military as moral value.

Secondly, it appears their Indian neighbors were possessed of a wholesome respect, at least, for the visitors, which we are told arose partly from their terrors of the white man's gunpowder, and partly from a suspicion that he was able to let loose upon them anew the plague from which they had aforetime suffered so severely.

As to the report made by the expedition on the territory they visited we shall heartily agree with their conclusions. In this connection their is plenty of room for sober reflection. Beyond all doubt the place for a great settlement is Boston and not Plymouth, and the adventurers were shrewd enough to recognize that fact immediately. For in spite of their prime object of isolation from foreign entanglements, they never had any idea of giving up communication with the home country. *That* they desired to make as easy as possible, and that meant, of course, a harbor.

They missed Boston harbor for various reasons, perhaps chiefly because they had never heard of it; and

you will remember Professor Brigham's hint that only a blinding snowstorm hid Barnstable harbor from the adventurers on that memorable expedition from Provincetown which finally found and selected Plymouth. Barnstable as a harbor would appear far more attractive than Plymouth. What if it had not snowed on that boisterous December day?

But here again, those of us who stand by providential dispensation will find a text. Plymouth was practically a deserted village site cleared for settlement and in some part made ready for their habitation. Could they have survived anywhere else on this coast that first terrible winter? The later colonists who had had a chance to hear of it, and better opportunities to settle about it, were quick enough to find the bay with its "hundred islands," and its two navigable inlets which the "Relation" says "we" heard of from the Indians but did not enter.

If I have not properly answered your question let me know unless, indeed, you prefer the ills you know to the possibilities you can only guess at.

Very truly yours,

WILSON FISKE.

OUR ILLUSTRATION.

A Medford dwelling that has stood in the heart of the old town for more than two-thirds of its history and still is (without modern restoration) a comfortable residence, is worthy of notice. Built in 1729, it was of the substantial type of its period, such as are seen all through New England. The front half only of the house is seen in the view, the part originally built, as it was subsequently enlarged by adding as much in depth to the rear, which newer part extended five feet by the front at either end. Since thus enlarged, very many years ago, it has housed two families, but the front door and enclosed entry is of perhaps sixty years ago.

The street it faces is now known as Riverside avenue, because, in one of its improvement spasms, Medford deemed the good old name of Ship street hardly dignified enough. In earliest times it was called "the way to Blanchard's," because it was such. Early in the eighteenth century, a business was established near by, which added the fame of "Old Medford." It is said that a remarkably good spring of water there existed, which induced John Hall to there erect his "distil-house," and so the "way" came to be called "Distil-house lane."

It will be seen that the house stands on a corner lot. The other "way" is probably as short a street as there is in Medford — River street. Extending to Salem street, it adjoins (even covers a part of) the earliest burial place, and was long known as Dead-man's alley.

This old house had been erected sixty-eight years when its brick neighbor was built. Its owner was a man of some note in Medford, and constable of the town in 1733. Mention is made of him elsewhere in this issue of the REGISTER. From out this comfortable mansion, Constable Richard Sprague sallied forth one day, perhaps with his staff of office, but clothed with the majesty of the law, and backed by the warrant of the selectmen, to lay hold on the body of one Matthew Ellis, a delinquent tax payer, and trouble of years' duration began.

But to return to the view, which, though made twenty-five years ago, and with a few changes, holds good today.

The railroad crossing and its gates, the Mystic Church spire, the electric light, were things unknown in Richard Sprague's time, and not very old when some old Medford man posed for his picture in Dead-man's alley. Who was he? Were he to return today and walk up to the square *he* might curiously look at the contents of the old brick distil-house, now a garage. One tall chimney and ventilators through which rum fumes escaped are gone. Instead, those of oil and gasoline prevail. And what would Constable Sprague say to the display of automobiles now seen across the street from his old house?

SEASON OF 1920-1921.

The Historical Society has held its stated meetings on the third Monday evenings of October to May (inclusive). On October 18 Rev. Thomas C. Richards of the Mystic Church, and secretary of the John Brown Association, favored us with an interesting address on John Brown, recounting many events of the years before the Civil War. The attendance was not such as to encourage the committee to invite other speakers to address us, so the remaining have been sustained by our own membership.

In November it was fitting that the subject should be "The Pilgrims at Provincetown." Mr. Wilson Fiske led off in a talk on the timely subject and was followed by several others, and the meeting was one of much interest.

At the December meeting, special consideration, this being the Plymouth Day. Mr. Remele read historic selections, Miss Atherton told the story of Elder Brewster's life in England and Holland, and Mr. Mann read a short paper on the time and causes of the Pilgrim movement. This meeting was of much interest and more largely attended.

The annual meeting in January was on one of the coldest evenings of the winter, and there was but a small attendance, but the reports were made, and officers elected for the ensuing year.

The February meeting was "An Evening with Parson Turell." Mr. Remele read selections from Brooks' History relating to him. Mr. Mann read the will of the old minister, having made copy of the same at the Probate office. At the "Item — I give to little Turell Tufts . . . that my shadow may remain" the portrait of Ebenezer Turell thus bequeathed was displayed by Mr. Fiske, who had procured it from the First Parish Church for the occasion. At the "item, I give to Simon Tufts my watch" a silver watch with chain and seal was passed around for inspection. This watch (doubtless similar to Mr. Turell's) had just been given to the Society, and was that of Dr. Daniel Osgood, brother of Rev. David Osgood, Mr. Turell's colleague and successor. Miss Atherton read Dr. Holmes' poem "The Parson's Legacy," relating to "the president's chair" at Harvard College, said to have been given by Mr. Turell. Mr. Fiske exhibited a copy of the letter written by the parson calling for a "fast day," to select a colleague to assist him in his latest years. Light refreshments were served and a social half-hour closed an enjoyable and interesting meeting.

In response to the query, "What do we celebrate in March?" the Boston Massacre and the Siege and Evacuation of Boston were discussed, the members participating quite freely and with interest.

The April meeting was similarly conducted, and falling on the eighteenth, very naturally the Battle of Lexington claimed atten-

tion, as well as the modern observance of "Patriot's Day." Various poems and selections were read by Miss Atherton, Miss Durgin and Miss Carty, commemorating the historic rides of William Dawes and Paul Revere, and the hanging of the signal lanterns. Mr. Mann read a paper on "The Route of Revere," which appears in the REGISTER.

President Ackerman called attention to the events of the winter of sixty years ago, culminating with the bombardment of Fort Sumter. The stirring scenes in Medford, next following, were recalled, including the departure of the Light Guard for Washington; the surrender at Appomattox, the restoration of the old flag to Sumter, and the terrible tragedy of the death of Lincoln were all recalled by remarks by several members, which showed April to be a month of notable memory.

On Patriot's Day the Society's home was open to the public from noon till five o'clock. Somewhere about two hundred people came to see our quarters and collection. But a portion of these left their names in our registry book. We had too small a company to meet them adequately and explain and answer their questions, and the few we had were taxed to extent of patience by the few ill-mannered boys who found their way thither. But in the main the demeanor of the younger element was very commendable.

The May meeting marked the completion of the twenty-fifth year of the Society's corporate existence, and in response to the notice sent by mail to each and every member, we had twenty-five present. Letters were read from several, regretting absence, and of congratulation and good will. Brief addresses were made, after the President's welcome, by former Presidents Wait and Eddy, by Dr. Green, president of the Royall House Association, and Miss Wild, former Editor of the REGISTER. Former Presidents Hooper and Mann were present to enjoy the occasion, which was one of real interest. The adjournment was "to meet at the call of the President," and a social half-hour, with refreshments, followed.

During the year the Society has been represented at meetings of the Bay State League at Boston, Methuen, Concord and Arlington by President Ackerman and Mr. and Mrs. Mann.

The Society regrets that, because of limited means, it has been unable to open its rooms to visitors at regular intervals. At various times, however, some of its officers have by special appointment met visitors there to save them from disappointment. It is hoped that sometime there may be a printed catalog of its library and collection which is ever increasing and of much interest.

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FORM OF BEQUEST.

I give and bequeath to the Medford Historical Society, in the city of Medford, Mass., the sum of _____ Dollars for the general use and purposes of said Society.

(Signed) _____

J. C. MILLER, JR., PRINTER, MEDFORD.

MEAFORD, STAFFORDSHIRE, ENGLAND

Medford, Massachusetts, was named for this small hamlet, where was the country home of Governor Matthew Cradock

The Medford Historical Register.

VOL. XXIV. DECEMBER, 1921. No. 4.

THE ENGLISH MEDFORD.

THREE years ago we were asked by a business manager if Medford derived its name from any English locality. Without hesitation we replied affirmatively. In Vol. XXII, p. 21, our conclusions and reasons therefor may be found.

During the present year there has been published "Towns of New England, Old England, Ireland and Scotland" by the State Street Trust Company of Boston. Its two parts form a book of four hundred and fifty pages, with numerous excellent illustrations. "Medford, Massachusetts," may be found on pages 123 to 125 of the second part, accompanied by the attractive view shown in our frontispiece. This was secured from Ian Forbes, Esq., of Robertson, England, and we reproduce it by courtesy of the Trust Company.

Following its good example thus set, the REGISTER has sought information from oversea, relative to Medford, Staffordshire. We applied at the British Consulate in Boston and were told "It must be a small place, as there is no post office of that name in our list," and were advised to write to "Staffordshire County Council." Doing so, we were in due time in receipt of the following: —

27th October, 1921.

DEAR SIR,

MEAFORD — STAFFORDSHIRE.

I have your letter of the 10th instant desiring information with regard to the above. I do not think I can do better than send you the enclosed extract from Kelly's Directory of this County. The enclosed three pictures may also be of interest to you.

Yours faithfully,

EUSTACE JOY, M.A.

MEAFORD.

Meaford is a very small village and hamlet near the river Trent, about 1¼ miles north-north-west from Stone station, on the Colwich and Stoke section of the North Staffordshire railway, in the Kibblestone quarter of Stone parish, Stone division of the county, South Pirehill hundred, Stone union, petty sessional division and county court district, on the road from Stone to Newcastle. Divine service is held every Sunday afternoon in the school by the vicar of Christ Church, Stone. Meaford Hall, on the east side of the Trent, is the seat of Lieut.-Col. William Swinfen W. Parker-Jervis, D. S. O., and has been in the possession of the Jervis family for several generations; here was born, 19th January, 1735, John Jervis, the famous admiral, created Earl St. Vincent, 23rd June, 1797, in recognition of the splendid victory he achieved in that year over the Spanish fleet off Cape St. Vincent. Lieut.-Col. William Swinfen W. Parker-Jervis, D. S. O., is the principal landowner. The soil is gravel; subsoil, sandstone. The land is chiefly in pasture. The area is 1,376 acres. The population is included in Stone parish.

Letters through Stone, by messenger, and Stone is the nearest money order and telegraph office.

The children of this place attend the school at Stone.

We regret that we cannot in this issue present the beautiful views mentioned, but hope to in the near future.

By the above it will be seen that the English Medford, now called Meaford (pronounced *Mefford*), is not a municipality, but is an outlying "village or hamlet" adjoining the town (or city) of Stone, being counted in its census return and served by its post office. In reading the above, and also a "Kelly's Directory" of earlier date (in Boston), we are reminded of the acreage and extent of the Brooks estate in West Medford, and also of that little village and its facilities as we found it in 1870, and also of the relation it bore to the Medford of that time. We have replied with thanks to Clerk Joy, sending some illustrated literature relating to our Medford, and trust that thus reaching our "hands across the sea," we may get in closer touch with old Medford, we mean the *older* Medford, *i.e.*, present Meaford, where three centuries ago Governor Cradock had his country home.

THE INDIANS OF THE MYSTIC VALLEY AND THE LITIGATION OVER THEIR LAND.

By Hall Gleason, Following the Research of the late Daniel A. Gleason.

The renowned sachem of the Pawtuckets was Nanepashemit, who removed from Lynn in 1615, and took up his abode on Mystic river where he was killed in 1619. During his short and eventful residence in Medford his house was placed on Rock hill, where he could best watch canoes in the river. So says Medford's historian.

Other histories show him as living in Medford not far from the river or from the pond and on the tops of hills. This eminent grand sachem was the father of Sagamore John of Mystic, Sagamore James of Lynn and Sagamore George of Salem. George finally became sachem of the Pawtuckets. Their chief enemies were the Tarratines on the Penobscot, who at harvest would come in their canoes and reap the fields in this neighborhood. One hundred of them attacked Sagamores John and James August 8, 1631, by night and wounded them and killed seven men. Sagamores John and James died of the smallpox in 1633.

After the death of Nanepashemit, his wife as queen and squa sachem reigned. She married Webcowit, the physician of the tribe, "its powow, priest, witch, sorcerer, and chirurgeon," but as is asserted, setting a precedent which Queen Victoria followed, he became prince-consort but not prince-regnant. In 1636 a deed is recorded granting a tract of land to Jotham Gibbons of Boston as follows:

Middlesex Deeds, B. 1, P. 174

This testifies that I the Sachem which have right & possession of the ground which I reserved from Charlestowne and Cambridge which lyes against the ponds at Misticke; with the said ponds I do give freely to Jotham Gibbons his Heyres Executors and Assignes forever not willing to have him or his disturbed, in the said gift after my death. And this I do without seeking too of him or any of his, though thay have been put upon it many times, but I

receiving many kindnesses of them am willing to acknowledge their many kindnesses by this smal gift to their sonne Jotham Gibons

Witness my hand the 10th of the 11. month. 1636

The Squa Sachem X mark

Webicowits O mark

Witness

Edmund Quinsey

Entered and Recorded 23 (8) 1656 by Thomas Danforth

Recorder

This deed implies the transfer of a tract of land to Charlestown and Cambridge of which there is no record. In 1639 she deeded a tract to Charlestown:

MIDDX. DEEDS B. 1, P. 175 APR. 15, 1639

The 15th of the 2d. mo. 1639 We Web Cowit & Squaw Sachem do sell unto the Inhabitants of the Towne of Charlestowne, all the land within the lines granted them by the Court excepting the farmes and the ground on the west of the two great Ponds called Misticke ponds, from the south side of Mr. Nowell's lott neere the upper end of the ponds unto the little runnet* that cometh from Capt. Cooke's mill which the Squaw reserveth to their use for her life for the Indians to plant and hunt upon and the weare† above the Ponds they also reserve for the Indians to fish at whiles the Squaw liveth, and after the death of Squaw Sachem shee doth leave all her lands from Mr Mayhues house‡ to near Salem to the present Governor Mr. John Winthrop Senr. Mr. Increase Nowell Mr. John Wilson Mr Edward Gibons to dispose of, and all Indians to depart and for sattisfaction from Charlestowne, wee acknowledge to have received in full sattisfaction twenty and one coates nineteen fathoms of wampum & three bushels of corne

In Witness Whereof we have hereunto sett our hands the day and year above named

the mark of Squa Sachem X

the mark of Web Cowet O

Subscribed in the presence off

Jno. Humphery

Robert Feake

This is to testifie that the aforenamed purchase was made at the

*Sucker brook in Arlington.

†At the mouth of the Aberjona. This point was overflowed by the dam at the partings in 1865.

‡Cradock's farm house at Medford Square.

charges of the Inhabitants of Charlestowne and to their use, and for so much as lyeth within their limitts we do accordingly resign and yield up all our interest therein to the use of the said town according to the trust reposed in us.

Dec. 18, 1639 10th. mo. 18th. 1639
Jno. Winthrop Govrnr
Increase Nowell
Jno. Wilson
Oct. 23, 1656 Entered & Recorded 23th 8 mo. 1656
by Thos. Danforth Recorder.

The last clause of this deed is more fully explained in this affidavit of John Wilson in 1662:

Middlesex Co. Ct. files 1662 Gleason v. Norton & al

These may serve to certify whomsoever they may concern that whereas I undeawritten together with the Honord Mr Jno. Winthrop & Mr Increase Nowell both deceased have sett my hand unto a certain writing wherein wee resigned up all our interest that wee had in a certaine tract of land comitted to or trust by Squaw Sachem as may more amply appeare in the said instrument reference thereunto being had unto the Towne of Charlestowne I do hereby declare that in that Act of mine I did not nor now doe yield up any part of that Tract of Land that was given unto Jotham Gibbons by the Squaw Sachem, neither doe I think that it was any part of the meaning or intention of either of those Gentlemen that sett their hands to it.

This is the truth as witness my hand this 15th. of December 1662.
John Wilson Sen.
This is owned in Court 17. 10. 62 as signed by Mr Wilson.

The bound for the commencement of the Indian grant was "from Mr. Mayhews house to neere Salem" Affidavits of Edmund Converse, Benjamin Crisp and Joseph Hills used in Gleason v. Norton & al. in 1662 say that Davison lived in "Meadford house" in 1633, and Richard Beers, Benjamin Crisp and Garret Church say that Mayhew lived there in 1636.

On the thirteenth of November, 1639, the squa sachem gave another deed to Jotham Gibbons for the same tract of land as follows:

Middx. Deeds B. 1, p. 176

Be it known unto all men by these presents that we Webcowites and the Squa Sachem of Misticke wife of the said Webcowites calling to mind and well considering the many kindnesses and

benefits we have received from the hands of Captain Edward Gibons of Boston in New England in part of requitall whereof and for our tender love and good respect that we do beare to Jotham Gibones Sonne & Heyre Apparent of the said Captain Gibones Do hereby of our own motion and accord give & grant unto the said Jotham Gibones the reversion of all that parcell of land which lies against the ponds at Misticke aforesaid together with the said Ponds, all which we reserved from Charlestowne and Cambridge late called Newtowne and all hereditaments and apurtenances thereunto belonging after the death of me the said Squa Sachem To have and to hold the said reversion of the said parcell of lands and ponds and all and singular the premises with the Apurtenances unto the said Jotham Gibones his Heyres and Assignes forever. In Witness Whereof we have hereunto sett our hands and seals the thirtenth day of the Eleventh month in the yeare so declared by Christians One thousand six hundred thirty and nine and in the fiftenth yeare of the Reigne of King Charles of England &c willing that these be recorded before our much honoured friends the Governor of the Massachusetts Bay in New England and the rest of the Magistrates there for perpetual remembrace of this thing.

The Squa Sachem marke X
& a seal

Web-Cowits mark X
& a seal

Signed sealed and delivered in presenee of
Robert Lucar
Edmund Quinsey
Robert Gillum

This writing is acknowledged to be the deed of Squa Sachem and Web-Cowites, and the marks and seals thereunto affixed to be their marks & seals and have manifested and explained the bounds of the said grant or deed to be distinct from the land which was given to the Governor Mr Nowell Mr Wilson and Capt. Gibones, Benedict Arnold being interpreter, and that they did not sell it to Charlestowne

In the presence of us
Jno. Winthrop Governr — Richard Saltonstall
Jno. Endecott Dept. Govr. — Thomas Flint

Recorded 3 (6) 1643 by William Aspinwall Recorder Entred & Recorded 23 (8) 1656 by Thomas Danforth Recorder.

The Major Gibbons farm or the Squa Sachem's reservation was a tract of about five hundred acres* on the

*480 per Plan.

west shore of Mystic ponds, reaching along the shore of both ponds, from the stream* that runs into the pond from the old Fowle and grain mills, north to the point just above the upper pond where the Middlesex canal formerly crossed to the long point (now a part of the Metropolitan park reservation) which reaches out between the upper pond and what is now known as Bacon's.

The squa sachem described that boundary as the south end of Mr. Nowell's land. A witness, in the suit to be mentioned, described the [southern] as "the little brook that runneth from Capt. Cook's mill to Mystic pond."

Col. George Cooke had early built a mill a little above the present site of the old Fowle grain mill and was a man of repute. He returned to England on the breaking out of the Civil War, was made a colonel under Cromwell and was killed in Ireland in 1652. Administration of his estate in this country was granted to Henry Dunster, first president of Harvard, and Colonel Cooke's older brother Joseph in 1653. Some three hundred feet or so above the present dam just where a street [Water street] comes down to the west side of the pond [mill pond] are projections reaching out from each side of the pond towards a small island in the center [part of the old dam] and Judge Parmenter pointed this out as the remains of the original dam to Colonel Cooke's mill.

The reservation extended back from the pond about five-eighths of a mile well up to the crest of the hill (or further) at the north end and narrowed down to the west side of the road at the south end some twenty rods north of the bridge [over Sucker brook].

In 1658 by indenture dated December 3 but signed December 9 Thomas Gleason leased of Capt. Samuel Scarlett acting for his wife "the messuage etc. lying and being within the bounds of Charlestowne — commonly known and called by the name of the Major Gibbons farme" for ten years at a rental of eight pounds a year.

*Sucker brook.

This lease and attendant litigation is briefly as follows:

In 1650 the Squa died, according to the deposition of Richard Church in Scarlett v. Gardiner, and Edward Gibbons took possession of the land in behalf of his son. In 1655, 9th of 5 mo. (July 9) Jotham, describing himself as of Bermuda, appointed Thomas Lake and Josh: Scottow general attorneys for many purposes, and among other things to recover possession "of the parcell of land belonging unto me sometimes called by the name of Squa Sachem's hill." It was mortgaged to Scottow, redeemed by Scarlett in the right of his wife, leased by him to Thomas Gleason who entered under the lease and soon had his hands full of work and trouble.

In the summer of 1659 men employed by Henry Dunster as executor of Colonel Cooke began to mow the grass in the meadow below the mill. Thomas Gleason, assisted doubtless by his brawny sons, set upon the men, drove them off and carried off the hay.

In the County Court held at Cambridge April 3, 1660, Thomas Gleason in behalf of Capt. Samuel Scarlett sues "Ri: Gardiner in an accord of ye case for laying claim to a parcell of land belonging to ye farme that was sometimes Maj. Edw. Gibbons of Boston, etc." April 23, 1660, the jury found for the plaintiff. In the files belonging to this case are several very interesting documents, and especially the original indenture of lease signed by Scarlett.

But the Charlestown people returned again to the charge: At the County Court held in Cambridge April 1, 1662, Capt. Francis Norton and Mr. Nicholas Davison in the behalf of the Inhabitants of Charlestowne plffs. brought action against Thomas Gleison deft. in an action of the case for witholding their interest in a parcel of land formerly in the possession of Web Cowitt and Squa Sachem with due damages, etc. Upon trial the jury brought in their verdict for the plaintiff an interest in and to three parts of the land in controversie on the west side of mistike ponds and the other part thereof to

the defendant as land belonging to Jotham Gibbons and for the defendant costs six shillings and two pence.

At the County Court held in Charlestowne Dec. 16, 1662, Thomas Gleison as plaintiff brought action against Capt. Francis Norton and Mr. Nicholas Davison in an action of review of judgment granted against him as above. But the verdict was against the plaintiff, affirming the former decision. The plaintiff appealed to the Court of Assistants. It may be noted that in the writ in this case we get the name spelled "Gleison."

Data Secured by W. H. Gleason

See County Court Records, Vol. 1, page 245:

The attachment was dated March 24, served March 25, 1662.

County Court was held apr 1, 1662 Norton & Davison vs Gleason, verdict gave plaintiff 3 parts defendant one part

In Dec 1662—Gleason brought suit to have the verdict reviewed

See County Court Records, Vol. 1, page 270:

Jury brought in verdict for Deft.: Confirmation of Judgement in April [This was a verdict with costs. W. H. G.]

The Plaintiff—Gleason appealed to ye next Court of Assistants to be held in Boston March Next And in October had a verdict in his favor.

See Volume 4, page 427, Records of General Court:

Second Session of the General Court, Boston, October 20, 1663.

Court Judgement in the Case between Capt Norton for Charlestown and Thos Gleason for Capt Scarlett

In the case now depending between Capt Francis Norton and and Mr Nicholas Davison plaintiffs in the behalf of Charlestown aforesaid and Thomas Gleason aforesaid defendant in refference to a certain parcel of land now in the possession of said Gleason given by Squa Sachem to Jotham Gibbons

The Court in a hearing of the Case and All persons concerned doe finde for the defendant.

Cost of Court forty-four shillings and four pence.

The Johnson Affidavit

Edwd Johnson aged 60 yrs. witnesseth that about one or two & twenty years ago This deponent being at the Wigwam of Squa Sachem, there was present Mr Increase Nowell Major Edward Gibbons Ralph Sprague & Edward Converse & some others of Charlestown at which time according to the interpretation of her and her husbands meaning by the above named Major Edward

Gibbons they did grant and sell unto Charlestown all their land within the limits of Charlestown, except that on the west side of the ponds called Mystic where their wigwam then stood which they reserved for term of her life & after her decease they did then declare it should come & remain to Jno Winthrop Esqr. Mr Increase Nowell Mr Jno. Wilson & the above named Major Edw. Gibbons & the persons & [illegible] this deponent on his return home did enter into his day book for remembrance thereof This is the whole truth remembered so saith

EDWARD JOHNSON

Sworn in court 4. (2) 1660

This Indian deed to Winthrop and others was a most unlucky piece of conveyancing. Paige (*History of Cambridge*) evidently thinks there was another deed from the Indians releasing the lands within the bounds of Watertown, Cambridge and Boston. If so, it is apparently hopelessly lost. From the expression in the first deed to Jotham Gibbons in 1636, "which I reserved from Charlestowne and Cambridge" it seems there must have been an earlier conveyance, probably in 1635, perhaps by the symbolical delivery of turf and twig upon the ground itself. But the decision to give one-quarter only of the reservation to Jotham Gibbons, grantee, is absolutely incomprehensible. The deed is so clumsily expressed as to require explanation. This we get from the Indians in their two deeds to Jotham, and from Governor Winthrop in the Council certificate attached to the second deed to Jotham. Winthrop probably drew this himself and it was only four years after the Charlestowne release. At this time Jotham was only ten years old (baptized October 27, 1633). His power to Lake and Scottow is dated July 9, 1655, soon after he became of age. Edward Gibbons did not sign the memorandum on the Charlestown release, and his acceptance of the gift to his son shows his view of the matter. At the time of making the lease to Thomas Gleason all four trustees except John Wilson were dead, and his affidavit tells what he understood, and shows that the gift to the Gibbons family was well known.

THE TURNPIKE HIGHWAYMAN'S FATE.

In "History of Medford," the chapter on *Crimes and Punishments* deals only with those of Colonial and Provincial days. It has been suggested that there were some happenings in Medford (from murder downward) in later (not to say latest) days, which a faithful chronicler might mention. But is it known to people generally, that a century ago Massachusetts had just enacted a law making highway robbery, when accompanied with threat, violence and exposure of a deadly weapon, a capital offence? Such was the fact, and there are those who, on account of recent increase in crime, and the facilities of escape offered by the automobile, think it would be well if such penalty was restored. The recent hold-up of Boston bank messengers in Chelsea is cited as an example.

One, nearly related to Medford, is mentioned in the REGISTER, Vol. XXIII, p. 9, which must have caused much excitement in our old town just one hundred years ago. The *Columbian Centinel* of August 15, 1821, thus tells the story: —

Wednesday, August 15, 1821.

Daring Robbery. On Monday evening, before nightfall, as Major John Bray of this town, was returning from Medford in a chaise with his lady, he was stopped on the turnpike near the Ten Hills Farm, by a robber who, after commanding the chaise to stop, presented a pistol to the Major's breast and demanded his money. Major B. saw that the pistol was cocked, and took out his pocket book and gave the robber a sum of money. The latter then demanded the Major's watch, which was also given him and he rode off towards Medford. A gentleman returning from Medford met a person on horseback who answered the description of the robber who was of dark complexion, dressed in dark clothes, mounted on a dark bay horse, with a portmanteau. When first seen by Mr & Mrs Bray the robber was on foot standing by his horse and observed by them very sharply as they passed. He must have immediately mounted followed the chaise and committed the robbery He offered no insult to Mrs. B. and remarked *that he robbed none but gentlemen.* The pursuit set on foot by Major B. succeeded so far as recovering the horse, which the robber rode, but the highwayman is not yet taken.

It was said that on that evening "Governor Brooks gave an assembly" at his mansion on High street, which afforded the highwayman the opportunity of waylaying the returning guests, who were of the class most likely to be victims of plunder.

It was told that after the robber's escape from pursuit up High street, he found refuge in a cave in the woods at West Cambridge (now Arlington). From thence he went to Springfield, where, a week later, he was arrested and brought to the jail at East Cambridge.

The *Centinel* of August 22 said

The highwayman taken. Yesterday *Michael Martin* was examined at Cambridge on charge of being the person who robbed MAJOR BRAY on the Medford Turnpike. He was fully committed to take his trial in October next.*

The *Centinel*, October 20, said,

The sentence of Michael Martin, convicted of highway robbery has not been passed upon him. His counsel have moved an arrest of judgment for misdirection of court matters of law and the court has assigned a future day for hearing arguments on the motion

It seems that the "future day" was not long deferred, for on October 22 —

the Chief-justice after a most dignified and pathetic address to him pronounced the awful sentence of the law.

There must have been much excitement over the case, as this was the first sentence under the law before alluded to. His counsel made every effort in his power, but to no purpose. The *Centinel* of December 5 said,

No doubt that Martin would be executed.

But with the fatal day drawing near, "Mike Martin" undertook to do something for himself. On the morning of the eighth of December, as the keeper entered his cell bringing his breakfast, Martin gave him a stunning blow, rushed through the doorway and throwing himself against the gate, forced it open and escaped into the open field,

* The file of the *Centinel* consulted is incomplete, but from another source we learn that he was convicted on October 9.

where he was soon recaptured. It was found that he had some time before secreted the knife accompanying his food, nicked its back, thus making a crude hack-saw with which he had severed the links of his chain. The cuts thus made were filled with a mixture of grease and dust, making them unnoticeable until broken in his "desperate attempt." He told the sheriff that "he prayed to God twice on his knees, that the blow he was about to inflict on the keeper might not prove fatal." Twelve days later (Thursday, December 20) the sentence of death was executed. A vast concourse of people assembled at "Lechmere Point" to witness it. East Cambridge was not then a network of railway tracks and closely built factories, and the scaffold was in plain view of the state prison at Charlestown, and of Boston across the Charles river.

The *Centinel* of the 22d gave a graphic account of the same, mentioning the appeal of the sheriff to the assembly to maintain respectful silence and order "while the last offices of religion were performed to the unhappy man" by the attending priest, stating

> The request was complied with and the regularity and decorum with which [the execution] was conducted must have made a deep impression upon the great body of spectators which witnessed it, and inspired them with a suitable awe for the energy and majesty of the laws.

We of today may wonder a little that this execution took place *outside* the security of the jail enclosure, and that the sheriff should have had so small a number of guards present. But a century ago executions were public for the purpose of enforcing a respect of law and order. Martin was described as a young man of twenty-seven years, in perfect health, and perhaps the coolest and most collected of the company that stood upon the elevated stage which supported the scaffold. He remarked that it was well that he should thus suffer, for had he succeeded in escaping he would probably have gone back to his former life.

In the foregoing it will be observed that the quotations are from the *Centinel*, a leading semi-weekly of the time. It was then the custom to print (in pamphlet form) reports of capital and noted trials, sometimes illustrated by wood-cuts of the criminals and their execution. In the archives of the Massachusetts Historical Society is the story (third edition) of this case (70 pages) by F. W. Waldo published by Russell & Gardner, 1822. This contains the story of his life as confided to that writer by Martin, whose real name was not "Mike" but John.

There is also a smaller pamphlet by Mr. Waldo which is a detailed report of the court proceedings as reported by him, and by the same publishers, in 1821.

Still another, probably elicited by the first named, deals with the publicity given to the reputed penitence of criminals, and is a careful exposition and defence of the then existing law.

A later publication of forty-eight pages, in 1845,—"Mike Martin, or the last of the highwaymen. A Tale of Reality"—was by F. A. Durivage, the editor of the *Olive Branch*, and frequent contributor to the columns of the famous *Gleason's Pictorial* of the '50s. As *his* work was twenty-four years later, it is evident that whatever *reality of the tale* there was, he derived from the earlier one of Waldo, With his vivid imagination and ability in *embellishment*, "there was a woman in the case," and Durivage's work, like many others, is very readable, but not altogether reliable. His book was illustrated by a wood-cut, showing Martin upon a horse, overtaking his victim in a chaise (its top turned down), lashing the horse, and directly opposite the Ten-hills mansion.*

As the indictment charged the robbery in *Medford*, this is comparable to the old weapon found in the river at the building of Cradock Bridge and brought to the Historical Society, and said to have "been Mike Martin's," but which *was a revolver.*

*This was in Charlestown, now Somerville, though a part of the estate extended into Medford.

Another writer, perhaps with some reason, gives the "Devil's Den" in Menotomy Rocks park at Arlington as his hiding place, giving a minute and interesting account of its features. The date of this latter cannot be fixed but, as before stated, perhaps was 1886.

Another haunt of Martin's is said to have been on the slope of Central hill, where was (and still is) the spring, just northward from the railroad station known as Winter hill. But neither Martin nor any one else ever dreamed of a railroad then.

The sheriff doubtless had *then* and there good reason to ask of the assembly respect of the rites of religion, but it is a sad commentary on some phases of modern civilization that, after the lapse of a century, the chief executive of the commonwealth has found it needful to appeal to our citizenry for respect of law and order, or that younger men than Mike Martin can commit more daring crimes in daylight and succeed in a quick getaway.

A RECENT DISCOVERY.

The Curator was somewhat startled recently, on entering the Society's building, to find what appeared to be a cannon, mounted in the entrance hall. As it was aimed in the opposite direction he approached and carefully examined it. He found no trunnions projecting from it for support, but instead, not far from the muzzle, was a rod apparently passing through it vertically and terminating in three surrounding points. "Queer kind of a gun, this," he thought, when his eye fell on an attached paper with this legend, "Vane from Centre schoolhouse." Then he remembered that, in the electrical storm of July 8th last, the lightning struck the cupola of the "old high school house" (as old residents still style it), doing some damage. He remembered another thing, that in June, 1870, he took his first walk down High street and noticed this *cannon* mounted aloft on the cupola, but mistook it for a baseball bat, as have others. But we

are credibly informed that it was intended to represent a *telescope*. Its largest diameter is four inches, and its extreme length four feet and two inches.

The building, originally erected in 1843 by William B. Thomas and Charles Caldwell, at a cost of $7,568.00, was remodelled by Mr. Thomas in 1866. At that time the cupola was added, with the surmounting vane. War-time prices then prevailed, as may be noted in the outlay of $21,055.00. Since then, the building has been enlarged to double its original size. Some facetious ones have styled it "The Siamese Twins," but failed to designate whether "Chang" or "Eng" bore the cupola.

Fifty-five years ago, baseball had just come into prominence as a national game, but it was not so prominent in school affairs or in the public print as today. As an emblem to be displayed on Medford's chief temple of learning, the invention of Galileo was certainly more appropriate.

Why it was not regilded and replaced after the repairs were completed we cannot say. Perhaps, with a modern bungalow schoolhouse ($150,000.00 *plus*), and other costly luxuries, Medford finds herself too poor.

ANOTHER TOWER ERECTED.

Directly after the REGISTER's publication of the *Towers of Medford*, another lofty structure was erected which, though not standing on Medford ground, is the central figure in the group of buildings of the American Woolen Company.

The last erected is of the substantial construction of reinforced concrete, five stories, and occupies the site of the wooden "paper mill building" destroyed by fire October 18, 1920. The old power-house and iron smoke-stack were removed, and in their places are a larger plant and a circular chimney rising to a height of one hundred fifty-one feet. It is twelve feet eight inches in diameter at the base, tapering gracefully to eight feet six inches at

its top. Being built of tile blocks instead of ordinary sized bricks, its erection was accomplished in seventeen days, the entire work being done from within, with no outside scaffolding. The tile are of a light straw color, and for the last twenty feet are interspersed with black tile, in circular bands and pleasing design. At its completion two lightning conductors were placed opposite each other upon it, the workmen using the familiar method of the "bos'ns chair" to traverse its height. It really stands in Somerville territory, near the end, and but a few feet from the edge, of that *appendix* of old Charlestown created by legislative enactment in 1754.

Its foundation is of concrete, eighteen feet square and nineteen feet deep upon the underlying bed rock. How thick this rock strata is just *there* we may not say, but twenty-six years ago an artesian well was drilled, but a few rods away, for nearly two hundred feet in the rock, ere a water-bearing stratum was reached.

It is a noticeable object, as seen from any direction. Equally so are the two water tanks, elevated about one hundred feet and not ungraceful in shape, that surmount the "Riverina Mills." Somehow, as we write, we imagine that Captain Sullivan who, in August, 1818, navigated his steamboat *just where* this towering chimney now stands, would, were he to come back today, think something had happened in the lapse of one hundred and three years.

THEN AND NOW.

In 1821 there were in Medford 152½ houses and about 1,500 people. There were 121 barns that sheltered 105 horses, 78 oxen and 237 cows.

In 1921 the population is over 40,000, the oxen are a minus quantity, the horses 161, the cows 150.

It is evident that the milk supply is from outside, but what of the transporting force? There were no railroads, either steam, horse or electric, a century ago anywhere in the country, none in Medford till 1835.

For the 161 horses to draw, in 1921, there are 156 "vehicles," but there are 2,329 automobiles, including 59 trucks, enough to make a solid line nearly seven miles long. Such a line would reach through the city from Wear to Wellington bridges, with a branch down Main street from the square to Somerville line. No wonder, with "everybody on wheels," that the pedestrian has little chance or safety on the street.

Twenty years ago the auto was scarcely known. Nothing in mechanical history ever increased so rapidly. Nothing ever so fostered a spirit of extravagance in American people. Thoughtful people are inquiring as to results, near or remote. Good servants sometimes prove bad masters, and not every employer is wise.

The population a century ago averaged ten to a house; probably quite a few of the one hundred and fifty and a half housed two families, perhaps another few, more. Families were larger in those days.

Medford had its town meeting in its *town meeting house;* and there its coming citizens, the boys, early learned wholesome lessons, of which the youth of 1921 are lamentably ignorant. And on one day in seven the townspeople gathered twice in this same *town-house*, (meetinghouse they called it) for the public worship of God, and that, too, in all seasons. Never before 1820 or 21 was there a stove or fire there.

A glimpse of the town meeting of 1821 is worth while. The "committee on treasurer's accounts" reported

> the same all fair and correct . . . a balance in the treasury $742.25 . . . expenses paid by the town last year $3801.64, as on file; which having been all considered by the town, *Voted*—to raise the sum of $4500, the present year, to defray the necessary expenses of Public worship, Public school, Poor, Highways and all other necessary incidentals & the surplus, if any, to be appropriated toward reducing the town debt.

That this was "good business," is seen by the report, a year later, of $1,256.89 in treasury. The town debt mentioned was $2,350. One item of this was paid, by using the recently acquired "Secomb Fund," the re-

maining $1,650 the treasurer advanced and took up the town's note held by the other creditor. As there was due from the collector $285 at the end of the fiscal year, there remained less than $100 to be provided for. The "Secomb Fund" is intact today, and Medford's finances of that day show up well.

Medford, in 1821, polled just two hundred votes, giving her favorite son, Governor Brooks, one hundred and seventy-six. Fourteen amendments by the constitutional convention were carefully considered and all but one ratified by eighty-two voters.

Abner Bartlett was unanimously re-elected as representative but "begged to decline because of his business and professional avocations." The choice of his successor was a different story. Forty-six votes were cast, requiring twenty-four for choice. Two had one each, Dudley Hall eighteen, and Turell Tufts twenty-six. In 1821 the qualifications of a "voter in town affairs" were

> To have been resident a year, to have a free-hold estate of the annual income of ten dollars, or any estate of the value of two hundred dollars

In 1821 the town clerk was paid $30, and "the overseers of the poor $30 for the same period." One dollar and a half paid the constable for warning the town meeting and $1.75 per day the assessors. "A man for work on the highway had $1.50, a man and team, $2.50; *every day to be ten hours.*" Holding no brief for union of church and state, we call attention to the fact that in 1821, "public worship" had the *first place* in the annual civic financial budget. That ended in 1824. Today Medford's area is smaller, but its population has increased twenty-seven times—*its expenses seven hundred times.* No reasonabe person desires a return to outward conditions and surroundings of a century ago, the days of our grandfathers, yet with our heavily mortgaged future in view, which those coming after most surely will have to experience, we are led to *think* and say, "*It is high time to awake.*"

In Memoriam

ROSEWELL BIGELOW LAWRENCE

January 31, 1856 — November 2, 1921
LIFE MEMBER
Vice-President since 1899

LEONARD JARVIS MANNING

May 11, 1856 — November 20, 1921
Vice President, 1907-16

CHARLES NELSON JONES

. . . 1836 — December 3, 1921
Member in 1897. Honorary in 1918

AGNES WYMAN LINCOLN

July 13, 1856 — December 27, 1921
Curator and Librarian, 1900-19
Vice-President, 1920-21

JOHN HENRY HOOPER

May 5, 1833 — December 31, 1921
President, 1901-3
Historian of Medford, 1905

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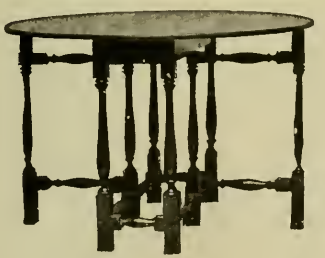

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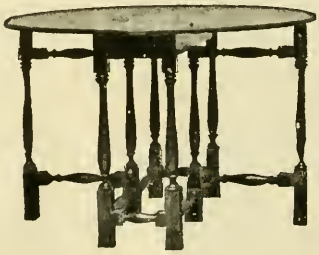

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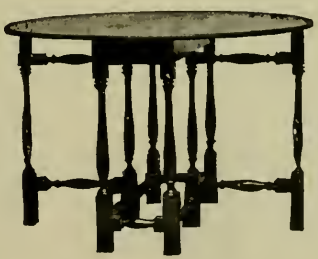

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